Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Minister (COM)

November 16, 2026
Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

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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Economic Cooperation Organization
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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 Special Guests, if any, including Heads of Delegation of the 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
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Agenda Item No. 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;

Economic Cooperation Organization
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Agenda Item No. 3

Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: ECO /2026/1303

Priority: Most Urgent
Date: 31/10/2026
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 ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose herewith the **Report of the ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization to the 30th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM)** to be held on November 15-16, 2026 in Islamabad.

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

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Economic Cooperation Organization
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30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting
(November 16, 2026)

Agenda Item No. 3

Report of the Secretary General on the activity of the Organization for 2026

ECO Secretariat

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A. Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) continued to advance regional cooperation in line with the decisions of the Council of Ministers and ECO Vision 2025. These efforts were pursued in an exceptionally challenging regional and global environment, marked by heightened geopolitical tensions, security uncertainties and disruptions, particularly in the ECO region on account of an imposed war of aggression against our host, affecting regional stability and economic cooperation. Despite these unprecedented challenges and their implications for the region, ECO remained committed to sustaining multilateral dialogue, strengthening solidarity among Member States and advancing its shared development objectives, while making notable progress in key areas of regional cooperation. Regional cooperation advanced across key priority sectors, including trade and investment, transport and connectivity, agriculture and industry, energy and environment, tourism, project management, economic research and statistics, as well as ECO's global outreach, with a continued focus on strengthening regional integration, promoting sustainable development and enhancing institutional effectiveness.

In trade and investment, the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, held in Istanbul on November 26, 2025, marked an important step towards deeper regional economic integration. Its key outcomes included the approval of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy and the signing of the ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Trade Promotion Activities. The establishment of the ECOTA Technical Negotiation Committee and its subsequent consultations advanced efforts to modernize the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). With intra-regional trade accounting for approximately 13% of the region's external trade in 2025, expanding trade, reducing barriers and strengthening investment and business linkages remain key priorities.

In transport and connectivity, the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held in Astana on October 15, 2026, adopted the Astana Declaration and the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035, providing renewed strategic direction for regional connectivity. Progress continued on transport corridors, railway connectivity, digitalization and interoperability of transport and transit systems. Preparations also commenced for an international financing conference on ECO transport corridors and projects in 2027, alongside cooperation with the United Nations on implementing the Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries.

In energy, minerals and environment, the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held in Samarkand on June 3, 2026, adopted the Samarkand Declaration and the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment for 2026–2030, including thematic annexes on climate change and biodiversity. In parallel, the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) became operational, the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) initiative advanced, and the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030 was adopted as the Organization's first comprehensive regional framework in the minerals sector.

In agriculture and industry, the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, held in Dushanbe on September 23, 2026, revitalized ministerial-level industrial cooperation after a twenty-year interval. The resulting Dushanbe Declaration called for a renewed Regional Strategy on Industrial Cooperation. Efforts also focused on operationalizing ECO-RISCAM following the entry into force of its Statute. In agriculture, cooperation continued on food security, seed trade, veterinary services and agricultural biotechnology, including through the 9th ECOSA International Seed Trade Congress in Tashkent in October 2026. The postponed 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and 7th High-Level Experts Meeting are expected to be hosted by Iran in 2027.

In tourism, the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, held in Shusha, Azerbaijan, in April 2026, adopted the Shusha Declaration and introduced the Compendium of Best Practices in Ecotourism and the Policy Brief on Diversifying Intra-Regional Tourism. Shusha was inaugurated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026, while Aktau was selected for 2030. Further progress included endorsement of the Roadmap on Expansion of Tourism Services 2030, advancement of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism and its sub-committees, and development of the ECO Tourism Connectivity Policy 2035.

In human resources and sustainable development, the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Islamabad on January 22, 2026, adopted the Islamabad Declaration and updated the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction for 2025–2030. Cooperation was further strengthened through a joint initiative with UNICEF on disaster preparedness for children. Other priorities included operationalizing the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters, promoting higher education cooperation, implementing the ECO Action Plan on Health, and advancing youth and women's empowerment, vocational training, digital skills and entrepreneurship.

The 27th Informal Council of Ministers Meeting, held on 25 September 2026 in New York under Pakistan’s chairmanship, resumed high-level ministerial engagement and reinforced institutional continuity. With the participation of Foreign Ministers from five ECO Member States and the observer Turkish Cypriot State (TCS), the meeting strengthened political dialogue and reaffirmed Member States’ commitment to advancing regional cooperation and shared priorities.

In judicial and police cooperation, the 7th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States, held in Turkistan, Kazakhstan, on September 11–12, 2026, strengthened high-level judicial dialogue and regional cooperation. The 5th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, originally scheduled for October 14–15, 2026, was postponed. Meanwhile, efforts continued to operationalize the Regional Coordination Centre for Anti-Organized Crime (RCCACO) and advance regional cooperation on Afghanistan-related matters.

In economic research, statistics and project management, significant progress was made towards evidence-based policymaking and results-oriented regional development. The ECO Statistical Dashboard was unanimously endorsed by the Council of Permanent Representatives in September 2026, while the draft ECO Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030 was agreed by the High-Level Experts Group in October 2026 for subsequent consideration by the Heads of National Statistical Offices. Efforts also

continued to advance the ECO Research Centre in Baku, strengthen the ECO Economic Journal and revitalize cooperation with SESRIC and relevant United Nations institutions. A portfolio of 39 regional projects was consolidated, while the September 2026 ECO–IsDB Group–ETDB meeting established a Joint Working Group and initiated preparations for a Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Action Plan to facilitate project financing.

In private sector engagement, ECO introduced a more inclusive approach by engaging business representatives more closely in ministerial processes, particularly in trade and connectivity. This initiative seeks to strengthen public-private dialogue, encourage partnerships and better align regional cooperation with business needs, including through its incorporation into the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035.

At the institutional and strategic levels, a revised arrangement was introduced for sequencing the COM and Summit meetings under a two-year ECO Chairmanship, with the COM convening in the first year and both the COM and Summit held back-to-back in the second year. Pakistan assumed the first two-year Chairmanship under this arrangement on 1 January 2026.

ECO intensified its outreach to regional and international financial institutions to mobilize financial and technical support for priority regional projects. A significant step was the ECO–IsDB Group–ETDB Trilateral Meeting, held on 7 September 2026, which established a Joint Working Group and initiated the development of a Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Action Plan. These efforts aim to strengthen partnerships, facilitate access to financing and translate ECO's regional project portfolio into bankable and implementable initiatives.

Besides, the preparation of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 has continued in close coordination with the Member States. The 29th COM also extended the validity of ECO Vision 2025, to ensure continuity in the Organization's strategic direction during the transitional period. The document is currently at an advanced stage of finalization and is likely to be summit to the relevant ECO decision-making bodies.

In financial and administrative matters, the Draft ECO Budget for 2027 was provisionally adopted by the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), pending Kazakhstan's concurrence. An amendment to the ECO Financial Regulations expanded the Audit Board from three to four members, with Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Türkiye appointed for a three-year term. Progress was also made in implementing the recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC) aimed at enhancing the Secretariat's administrative, financial and operational efficiency, with consensus on several proposals pending Kazakhstan's concurrence.

Despite exceptional regional security challenges, the ECO Secretariat maintained operational continuity through flexible working arrangements, ensuring the uninterrupted implementation of its programme of work and sustained engagement with Member States and international partners. The CPR also approved one-time financial compensation for affected Secretariat staff in recognition of their contributions under extraordinary circumstances.

Overall, the reporting period witnessed significant progress through key ministerial decisions, adoption of regional strategies, strengthening of institutional mechanisms and enhanced engagement with development partners. Sustained commitment by Member States, timely implementation of decisions and effective resource mobilization remain essential to translating these achievements into tangible outcomes and advancing ECO's shared objectives of regional integration, sustainable development and prosperity.

B. Sectoral and Other Activities

Trade and Investment

1) In 2025, the ECO region's total trade with the world was recorded at USD 1.058 trillion accounting for approximately 2% of world trade. Intra-regional trade stood at USD **138.6 billion**, representing **only 13** % of ECO's external trade- a figure that remains far below the region's true potential.

2) Advancing regional trade integration remains a key priority, with the **ECO Trade Agreement** (ECOTA) at its core. Following the landmark *9th Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council (CCM)*, convened on 30-31 July 2024 in Islamabad after a five-year hiatus, the Organization has made substantial progress. The meeting concluded with a consensus to launch a formal review and amendment process of the Agreement. In this regard, the *5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (MM CFT)*, held on 26th November 2025 in Istanbul, approved the initiation of technical negotiations by the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC), comprising trade experts from the ECO Member States. The First Meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee was convened on 15 April 2026 where it reviewed, discussed, and finally adopted its Terms of Reference. Two Informal Consultative Session of TNC were held on 17 June 2026 and 19 October 2026 to discuss the way forward on ECOTA revision. Pakistan has proposed transforming ECOTA into a multiprotocol framework agreement, encompassing separate protocols on areas such as market access, customs cooperation and trade facilitation. This approach would provide Member States flexibility to sign one, several or all of the protocols, in accordance with their national preferences. Pakistan's Concept Note has been circulated to the Membership for their views and comments. Preparations are currently underway to convene another Informal Consultative Session prior to the Second TNC Meeting.

3) The Regional Planning Council Meetings requested the Member States to volunteer hosting the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy and the Secretariat invited Member States to host the meeting at earliest. Republic of Kazakhstan volunteered to organize and host the meeting in May 2025, on the sidelines of the meeting of Board of Governors of Islamic Development Bank in Algeria. However, the meeting could not be convened.

4) In parallel, the Secretariat continues to advance initiatives in customs cooperation and trade facilitation, guided by the ECO Vision. I am pleased to announce that the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy was adopted by the 10th Meeting of the Council

of Heads of Customs Administrations (CHCA), held on 28th May 2025 in Tehran and approved by the 5th ECO-MM on CFT in Istanbul. The strategy places particular emphasis on digital trade, e-commerce readiness, and streamlined border procedures across the ECO region. We call upon all Member States to expedite its implementation.

5) In a complementary initiative, negotiations on the Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ECO-TFA) were officially launched during the 3rd Meeting of Joint Working Group for Trade Facilitation, hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan on 22 May 2025 in Tashkent. The draft builds on the international best practices, WTO TFA, and regional needs with the aim to provide a robust legal framework to improve the movement, release, and clearance of goods across the ECO region. By enhancing transparency and digitalizing customs documentation, it will contribute to reducing both costs and time in cross border trade. This collective engagement is vital to ensure that the ECO-TFA reflects the practical needs and priorities of all Member States and become a milestone for regional trade facilitation.

6) In this context, we also welcome the signing of the **ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters** and the **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Trade Promotion Activities among ECO Member States** by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye at the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade. All Member States are kindly encouraged to complete their internal approval procedures to facilitate the signing of both instruments.

7) I am also pleased to announce that we successfully convened the *1st Technical Test Meeting* for the implementation of the **ECO Smuggling and Customs Offenses Data Bank** (ESCODB) on 12th May 2025. This marks an important milestone in our efforts to establish a regional mechanism to enhance transparency, enforcement customs cooperation, and data-driven decision-making in cross-border trade, thereby curbing smuggling and other customs offences. We appreciated the efforts of the Republic of Türkiye in addressing the remaining technical issues for the full operationalization of the Data Bank.

8) The private sector plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and development in any region. In order to foster economic cooperation and integration among ECO Member States, six ECO business forums have been organized on the sidelines of ECO Summits, in recent years. These Business Forums were organised in Türkiye, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and most recent 6th Business Forum was organized in Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan on the sidelines of 17th ECO Summit on July 2, 2025 as a part of the first '*ECO Week*'. For the first time in ECO history, the delegations of ECO-affiliated institutions as '*ECO Family*' also participated from ECO-TDB, ECOSA, ECO-RISCAM, and ECO-RCCFS.

9) Trade promotion has been a weak link in meeting the targets set for growth of intra-regional trade in the region. Last time the *2nd ECO Trade Fair* was held in 2008. No ECO Trade Exhibition has been held. In this backdrop, the Secretariat proposed that each ECO Member State assuming as *ECO Chair* in a calendar year, may host one ECO Trade Promotion Event. The proposal was accepted during the *4th ECO- Trade Promotion Organizations' Forum (TPOs)* held in Karachi on 6th May 2025 and is part of Strategic Goals of ECO.

10) In trade facilitation the harmonization of policies, reducing the cost of doing business, developing regulatory and financial infrastructure, and institutional capacities are some key elements. To ensure uniformity, predictability and transparency and to reduce the time and financial costs in regional trade transactions, establishment of ECO Clearing Union is being pursued. In this regard, Islamic Republic of Iran expressed readiness to hold online technical consultative meeting with the Asian Clearing Union in 2026 in line with the decision of the 2nd ECO Expert Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters, and ECO Clearing Union. 3rd ECO Expert Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters, and ECO Clearing Union will then make a decision of the establishment of ECO Clearing Union.

11) During the 36th RPC, National Development Fund of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NDFI) proposed the creation of an association for ECO Sovereign Wealth Fund/National Development Fund as an initial, non-financial platform focused on building shared understanding, exchanging experiences and defining conceptual frameworks before the 2nd Meeting of Heads of the Sovereign Wealth Funds / National Development Funds. The Concept Note on "the Establishment of the Association for ECO Sovereign Wealth/National Development Funds (ECO SWF/NDF Association) was circulated to the Member States and Islamic Republic of Iran conveyed readiness of the National Development of the I.R. of Iran for hosting of 2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Sovereign Wealth /National Development Fund in 2026.

12) Efforts to promote investment continue to be a priority, with ECO Member Sates encouraged utilizing the **ECO Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment (APPI**) as a key tool in promoting a stable and secure investment climate. The Agreement, which is already in force with 5 signatories Member States, provides a framework for cooperation and serves as an important catalyst for attracting investments.

13) The *1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities* was hosted by I.R of Pakistan in 2022. Islamic Republic of Iran announced the *2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities* on November 23-24, 2026.

14) Together, these initiatives demonstrate ECO's determination to transform the region into an integrated trade bloc with shared rules, strategic foresight, and a spirit of partnership. I count on the continued support of all Member States to sustain this momentum and translate these priorities into concrete results.

Transport and Communication

15) The transport sector remains a cornerstone of cooperation in the ECO region, underpinning regional connectivity, facilitating trade and supporting sustainable economic development.

16) A major milestone was the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held on October 14-15, 2026 in Astana, which provided renewed political impetus to our shared transport agenda.

17) The Meeting adopted the "Astana Declaration" reaffirming the need to fully operationalize and commercialize all ECO transport corridors so that they can serve intra-regional, inter-regional and global trade more effectively. The Declaration also supported key Secretariat's initiatives, including the implementation of the "Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Countries" in the ECO region; the Phase II of the "ECO Gates Project" on addressing transport and transit challenges faced by ECO ports, including those affected by declining water levels in the Caspian Sea.

18) In their Declaration, the Ministers reiterated their resolve for and support to the ongoing ECO initiative to organize the first International Financing Conference for ECO Transport Corridors and Projects in 2027. The Conference will provide an opportunity to bring together Member States, development partners, financial institutions and private investors to explore financing options and partnerships for priority regional transport initiatives. The Minsters encouraged the international and regional financing institutions and development banks to contribute into the success of this important Conference.

19) For the first time, we organized a dedicated private-sector event on the sidelines of the ECO Transport Ministerial Meeting in Astana. This provided a valuable opportunity to bring business perspectives into our discussions and strengthen dialogue between policymakers and industry representatives. I believe this experience offers a useful model that could be followed by the future transport ministerial meetings and be replicated at ministerial meetings in other sectors.

20) The 14th Ministerial Meeting adopted the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035. Building on the priorities set out in the "Tehran Declaration" adopted at the 13th Ministerial Meeting in 2025, the Strategy aims to advance infrastructure modernization and digitalization, strengthen policy and institutional coordination, and enhance the financial sustainability of the region's transport sector. It provides bases for drafting and implementing short-term, and mid-term plan of actions towards a more efficient, integrated and resilient regional transport system.

21) As you are aware, the Secretariat has proposed an initiative to facilitate the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in the ECO region. The initiative received the support of both the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and the Regional Planning Council (RPC). As a first step, we will organize **a kick-off meeting in partnership with UN-OHRLLS** on 18 November in Bangkok, on the sidelines of the 5th ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport. This meeting will provide an opportunity to translate the initiative into a practical framework for regional cooperation and implementation.

22) At the initiative of Turkmenistan, the Secretariat has also made progress towards establishing **Joint Trade Zones in the ECO region**. A model agreement has been drafted and circulated, and terms of reference have been prepared for a pre-feasibility study. The Secretariat has also announced the recruitment of an international consultant to undertake the study, which will help assess the prospects for establishing these zones and inform the next stages of work.

23) In addition, we have recently conducted **two small-size studies.** One is on the establishment of an economic corridor along the Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Iran (KTI) railway; and the other is on digital modelling for advanced railway construction and maintenance in the ECO region. These studies can help inform practical measures to strengthen corridor development, improve railway performance and facilitate cross-border operations.

24) In the field of **information and communication technologies (ICT),** our immediate focus is on preparations for the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT, to be hosted by Pakistan next year.

25) In this context, we are finalizing a **new regional ICT strategy,** which we hope to submit to the Ministers for their consideration and possible adoption. The strategy is intended to provide a coherent framework for advancing regional cooperation in ICT and supporting the region's digital transformation.

26) Across these areas, we continue to strengthen cooperation with international partners, including UNECE, UNESCAP, UN-OHRLLS and ITU. These partnerships help mobilize expertise, support implementation and align our regional initiatives with broader international development priorities.

Agriculture and Industry

27) In line with ECO Vision 2025, agriculture and industry remained key areas under the priority pillars of "Economic Growth and Productivity" and "Social Welfare and Environment". These sectors also continue to feature prominently in the new ten-year strategic framework of ECO, namely the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035. The 17th ECO Summit in Khankendi emphasized the importance of climate-smart agriculture, sustainable water management, innovation and advanced technologies, while the 28th and 29th COMs likewise underscored the importance of agriculture and industry sectors.

28) The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Industry were held on September 22-23, 2026, respectively, in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The 4th Ministerial Meeting marked the resumption of high-level ECO policy dialogue on industry after a twenty-year interval and provided renewed momentum to the regional industrial agenda. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of regional industrial cooperation and brought together representatives of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations.

29) The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry adopted the Dushanbe Declaration on Revitalizing Regional Industrial Cooperation. The Declaration reaffirmed commitments to regional cooperation in regional quality infrastructure, the nanotechnology network, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, private-sector partnerships, and engagement with international partners. It also emphasized cooperation in emerging technologies, innovation and digitalization.

30) The 2026 Dushanbe Declaration called for the renewal and consolidation of existing strategic instruments and plans of action on industrial cooperation into a streamlined ECO Regional Strategy on Industrial Cooperation, encompassing all agreed priority areas, aligned with evolving regional priorities and global industrial developments, and serving as the principal regional policy framework for advancing industrial cooperation. It also called on Member States to designate national focal points, organize regular industrial exhibitions and expos, and hold regular ECO Ministerial Meetings on Industry to maintain momentum and review progress.

31) In line with the approach emphasized by the 36th RPC Meeting to promote industrial exhibitions, expos and forums, the Secretariat has continued to encourage and support cooperation among Member States in organizing international innovation and technology exhibitions and regional MSME innovation forums. These initiatives facilitate matchmaking among entrepreneurs, investors and technology providers. Successful examples of this approach can be seen in the Second International Textile Forum, held in Dushanbe on September 23, 2026 on the sidelines of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, and the 15th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition, held at Pardis Technology Park in Tehran from September 2–5, 2026.

32) The 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting and 7th High-Level Expert Meeting on Agriculture, to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, were initially scheduled for February 16–17, 2026 but were postponed due to lack of quorum. At the 36th RPC Meeting, Iran offered to reschedule the meetings in the fourth quarter of 2026; however, a date has yet to be confirmed. The ECO Secretariat has continued to follow up on their convening, recognizing the importance of high-level policy dialogue and strategic oversight in the agriculture sector.

33) ECO's agricultural priority areas, as reflected in the 2026 ECO Work Programme, include food security, seed supply and trade, animal trade and veterinary services, water management, meteorological cooperation, agricultural biotechnology, and cooperation with relevant international organizations. Food security stands as the top priority within the ECO's agricultural sector, anchored in the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) through the ECO Regional Coordination Center for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS), which plays a coordinating role in driving this Programme. Four Steering Committee meetings of ECO-RCCFS have been held. Türkiye's offer to host the 5th meeting was welcomed by the 36th RPC Meeting, but the date and details remain unconfirmed.

34) In 2026, the ECO-RCCFS submitted the outcome report of the project entitled "Support the Transformation of the ECO Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) from a Programme-Based Organization into a Self-Sustainable Institution within the ECO," presenting its key findings and recommendations. At the 36th RPC Meeting, the Council encouraged Member States to develop and implement projects aligned with the ECO-RPFS under the technical guidance of the ECO-RCCFS.

35) Beyond the ECO-RPFS, a network of interconnected initiatives supports regional food security, including the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) on seed supply and trade, the ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) on animal trade and veterinary services, the Agricultural Bio-technology Network (ECO-ABN) on promoting innovation in agricultural practices, the

ECO Meteorological Calibration Centre (ECO-MCC) on meteorological risks, and the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA) on water management. These initiatives are at different stages of establishment and operationalization, with no tangible progress reported in 2026 on the establishment of ECO-MCC and ECO-CEEWUA, despite the Secretariat's follow-up.

36) ECO's industrial priority areas, as reflected in the 2026 ECO Work Programme, focus on quality infrastructure, nanotechnology, industrial property rights, MSME and entrepreneurship development, and cooperation with relevant international organizations, with the operationalization of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) remaining a key priority. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye have ratified the Statute, and nine High-Level Working Group meetings have been held to date.

37) At the 36th RPC Meeting, Iran offered to host the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM in the fourth quarter of 2026 and, pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Statute, subsequently requested Member States to nominate accredited representatives from relevant national bodies for the Institute's four technical fields. Iran also organized a virtual Training Workshop on Conformity Assessment on 18 November 2025. The Conformity Assessment Technical Management Board established by Iran is operational, while the establishment of the remaining Boards—Metrology by Pakistan, and Standardization and Accreditation by Türkiye—remains pending.

38) The 2026 Dushanbe Declaration called for stronger regional cooperation on quality infrastructure and urged the remaining Member States to expedite the ratification of the ECO-RISCAM Statute, support its full operationalization, and facilitate the convening of the First General Council Meeting and the activation of its Technical Management Boards.

39) ECO has continued to strengthen international partnerships in agriculture and industry, fostering strategic cooperation to mobilize technical and financial support and enhance ECO's visibility, in line with the 2026 ECO Work Programme. On 9 March 2025, ECO signed an MoU with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and subsequently finalized a non-binding Joint Plan of Action to facilitate its implementation.

40) In 2026, ECO continued its cooperation with IOFS through several joint activities. These included the Joint ECO–IOFS–SESRIC Online Workshop on "Enhancing Water Resources for Sustainable Food Security" on 11 March 2026 and the Joint ECO–IOFS Webinar on "The Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Advancing Regional Cooperation" on September 29, 2026. Preparations are also underway for a joint ECO–IOFS side event at COP31 in Antalya on November 9, 2026, entitled "Strengthening International Cooperation for Climate-Resilient Food Security: From Shared Risks to Collective Action".

41) In parallel, ECO continued cooperation with UNIDO and FAO. Cooperation with FAO has focused on revitalizing the 1997 ECO–FAO MoU, strengthening knowledge-sharing, and exploring technical support for bankable projects. ECO also participated in the Central Asia Regional PPR Episystems Workshop in Astana on September 8–10, 2026 and in the 9th PPR

Advisory Committee Meeting (PPR-AC) in Paris on October 26–28, 2026. The ECO will also attend the GF-TADs West Eurasia Workshop on FMD/PPR Roadmaps in Dushanbe on November 11–13, 2026.

42) The ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) aims to promote regional veterinary standards, animal health and safe livestock trade in line with international standards. Its 2024–2028 Work Plan focuses on transboundary animal disease prevention and control, technical assistance, and capacity building. To date, it has held three Technical Committee Meetings and three Meetings of Heads of Veterinary Organizations. The 36th RPC Meeting invited Member States to host the 4th meetings of both bodies; however, no offers have been received to date. Iran and Afghanistan have ratified the ECO-VECO Statute, while further ratifications are required for its entry into force.

43) In 2026, Iran submitted proposals on a network of standardized reference laboratories, an animal slaughterhouse standardization network, and facilitating livestock and animal-product movement through border quarantine zones; these proposals remain under consideration by Member States. In line with the 36th RPC request, the ECO Secretariat continued follow-up with Member States to strengthen cooperation in animal trade and veterinary services, update national focal points, and advance implementation of the small-scale project on establishing a standardized ECO network of slaughterhouses and reference laboratories.

44) The ECO Seed Association (ECOSA), in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, has undertaken significant efforts in advancing the seed sector across the region and plays an active role in promoting seed supply and trade. To date, ECOSA has organized eight International Seed Trade Congresses, the most recent held in March 2024 in Taraz, Kazakhstan. The 9th ECOSA International Seed Trade Congress held on October 27–28, 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with an online preparatory meeting held on September 30, 2026.

45) On August 12, 2026, ECOSA held an online meeting to present its Vision for the Future and Work Plan, outlining its strategic direction for 2026 and beyond and putting forward proposals for discussion. ECOSA's Proposals on seed tariffs, harmonized legislation, and a Common Variety Catalogue were subsequently circulated to Member States, with feedback pending. ECOSA is also pursuing the establishment of technical working groups on a Joint Catalogue and Joint Seed Certification and Trade, with follow-up underway on Member State nominations. Other priorities include finalizing the ECO Regional Seed Agreement and establishing an Advisory Board to guide ECOSA's activities. During 2025–2026, ECOSA also held a series of online meetings to promote seed sector development by showcasing Member States' seed production and investment opportunities.

46) ECO continues to promote MSMEs, entrepreneurship and innovative technologies as drivers of regional economic development, including nanotechnology through the ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECO-NANO) and agricultural biotechnology through the ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN). Under ECO-ABN, the 36th RPC Meeting requested Pakistan to confirm the date and details of the 3rd Expert Group Meeting, which Pakistan had offered to host in 2025;

these remain unconfirmed. For ECO-NANO, two Steering Committee Meetings have been held, and the 36th RPC Meeting invited Member States to offer to host the 3rd Meeting in 2026 and facilitate the participation of their national nanotechnology institutions.

47) Supporting MSMEs, startups, and entrepreneurship remains a key industrial priority, with several workshops and four Steering Committee Meetings on Entrepreneurship and MSME Development held to advance cooperation in these areas. The 5th Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and MSME Development, scheduled to be hosted by Iran on 6–7 October 2026 in Tehran was postponed due to an insufficient quorum.

48) Several new agricultural initiatives have been proposed by Member States. Uzbekistan's Green Lanes Initiative seeks to facilitate agro-industrial trade through electronic data exchange and reduced administrative barriers. Its concept note was circulated to Member States, and the 36th RPC Meeting welcomed the initiative and requested an implementation roadmap and framework. An online technical meeting is being pursued. Other proposals remain at the conceptual stage, pending further operational details and concept notes, including Azerbaijan's proposals on Artificial Intelligence in agriculture and a Regional Agricultural Insurance Mechanism, and Pakistan's proposals for an ECO Regional Seed Vault/Bank, Climate-Smart Agriculture Centre, and regional locust-control mechanism.

Energy, Minerals and Environment

49) In 2026, ECO maintained a momentum of progress in regional energy cooperation with the focused approach on major promising projects. The Secretariat continued its steady efforts on mainstreaming sustainable energy transition and multilateral power connectivity in ECO's overall energy agenda and pursuing stronger energy-environment nexus via policy and expert-level dialogues, as well as engagements with international partners.

50) As ECO's flagship energy project, the establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO), jointly implemented with UNIDO, made strides amid multiple challenges. Following the entry into force of the Charter of CECECO, this Center has become operational in the end of 2025 in Baku and started functioning with the limited local staff supported by the financial and in-kind contribution of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Over a relatively short period, CECECO has been evolving into a pivotal hub to ramp up the industrialisation, energy and climate goals in the ECO region and beyond. Furthermore, it is becoming a strong component of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), being successfully realized across the globe. The 1st Meeting of the Executive Board of CECECO was held on 14 May 2026 with participation of all six signatory Member States, which took important decisions on advancement of the Center.

51) The Secretariat set the ground for the steadfast progress of another pivotal energy project of ECO – Establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM). The 3rd Task Force Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM, held on 16 July 2026, adopted in principle the recommendations on policy and regulatory reforms reflected in the "Regional Roadmap of Power

System Connectivity – ECO Regional Electricity Market: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development" developed by UNESCAP. The peer review of the subject Regional Roadmap has thus been finalized through the Expert Group on ECO-REM and dedicated Task Force Meetings. This Roadmap entails a set of targeted, actionable recommendations that would enable the multilateral, multi-directional power trading at sub-regional levels where there is transmission infrastructure. Driven by the outcomes of the roadmap, we now consider our way forward for shaping this regional electricity market by leveraging its recommendations. The Member States' proactive involvement and support is critical in this respect.

52) ECO continued streamlining the project-oriented cooperation and facilitating the implementation of decisions in the minerals sector. The "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030" was adopted by the 303rd CPR Meeting on 27 January 2026 and subsequently disseminated among the Member States for implementation. This Roadmap is the first-ever overarching and inclusive framework document of ECO in the field of minerals that marks a long- and mid-term planning and strong coherence of our regional cooperation.

53) The 10th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) was held on 12 October 2026 in ECO Secretariat, Tehran in hybrid mode. The Meeting reviewed the project proposals and other regional initiatives aimed at advancing meaningful cooperation in the minerals sector. It also deliberated on implementation of the Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation and its draft Implementation Plan, a template of which was prepared and circulated by the Secretariat in advance. Furthermore, the preparation of the meetings of existing full-fledged platforms, namely the Geomatics Committee and capacity-building activities, which could trigger the mutually beneficial regional cooperation in this field is underway.

54) Our leaders clearly highlighted the environment and climate-related issues as an urgent topic for action and as a bridge across regional and global agendas. Over the past year, the ECO Secretariat advanced environmental cooperation through a series of strategic engagements. In this context, the role of the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and its strong and regular convention to lead the regional collaboration on the environment cannot be overstated.

55) ECO successfully organized the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment under the overarching theme "New Horizons for Enhanced Regional Environmental Action through Collaborative Solutions" in Samarkand on June 3, 2026, preceded by the 8th ECO WG Meeting on Environment on June 2, 2026. The convening of this Ministerial after a twelve-year gap and its outcomes represented a decisive milestone. The Ministerial marked the adoption of Samarkand Declaration and a new ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment for 2026-2030 with its two Thematic Annexes – the ECO Work Programs on Climate Change and Biodiversity, respectively. These landmark documents will navigate on regional environmental cooperation for the next five years.

56) Pursuant to the decisions of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the 36th RPC Meeting (17-20 May 2026), ECO and UNIDO are now on the verge of launching the joint Project entitled "Circular Economy in the Economic

Cooperation Organization (ECO) Region: a multi-country foresight study for a just transition to a resource-efficient and circular economy". It was developed under the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE), launched during the Climate COP29 (November 2024, Baku). Circular economy solutions remain a game changer for the green transition in the ECO region.

57) ECO intensified regional environmental diplomacy in 2026, including the active participation of the ECO Secretariat and Member States in key global and regional fora. In particular, a number of engagements and side events attended on the margins of the Regional Ecological Summit (RES 2026), held on April 2026 in Astana (Kazakhstan), fostered international partnerships of ECO.

58) The inaugural meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation on the margins of the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana (Kazakhstan) was also convened on April 23, 2026. This meeting, organized by the Republic of Uzbekistan jointly with ECO Secretariat and hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan, formally inaugurated a new interactive consultation mechanism for ECO Member States to exchange perspectives on shared environmental challenges. The Meeting anchored regional environmental cooperation in the latest scientific knowledge and national priorities and identified priority thematic areas for continued dialogue, including transboundary air pollution, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and circular economy approaches.

Tourism

59) The 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group on Tourism and the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism were successfully convened on 28–29 April, 2026 in the historic city of Shusha, Azerbaijan, which has been designated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026. The high-level gathering brought together Ministers and senior representatives from ECO Member States. The Ministers deliberated on a range of strategic initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive tourism growth. These included the official launch of the ECO Compendium of Best Practices in Ecotourism and the Policy Brief on Diversifying Regional Tourism, as well as the selection of Aktau as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030. The Meeting also discussed strengthening tourism education, jointly marketing destinations, and promoting investment opportunities across the region. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing tourism as a driver of economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity while emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural heritage and promoting tourism as a contributor to peace, stability, and mutual understanding, as reflected in the Shusha Declaration adopted as the outcome document of the Ministerial Meeting. The Official Inauguration of the celebratory events for the city of Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital 2026 was also marked by the formal presentation of the certificate to the Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the events in Shusha featured a gastronomy fest showcasing the diverse local cuisines of the ECO Member States.

60) The ECO Tourism Capital initiative annually designates a city to promote regional cooperation and sustainable development. Its core objectives are to highlight the diverse cultural and natural heritage of member states and strengthen intra-

regional travel. The program also aims to foster economic integration through tourism-related investment and infrastructure. Ultimately, it seeks to enhance the quality of life for residents while delivering long-term economic and environmental benefits. The ECO Secretariat is following up on the arrangements for the festivities to be organized in Lahore, Pakistan, designated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2027. The ECO Secretariat has received a new nomination of the city of Neyshabur from the Islamic Republic of Iran for the title of ECO Tourism Capital 2031, and the upcoming 8th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism is expected to consider this matter.

61) The first meeting of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT), a new cooperation mechanism comprising representatives of national tourism authorities, the private sector, and academia under one umbrella, was hosted by Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 26 November, 2025 and discussed the tourism part of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation for 2035 as well as the initial draft of the Roadmap for Expansion of Tourism Services 2026-2030 proposed by the Republic of Uzbekistan. The 2nd ECO-ACT Meeting was held virtually on 28 July 2026, during which participants finalized the Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030 (RETS-2030). The 310th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on 16 September 2026, endorsed the adoption of the RETS-2030 document.

62) The 9th Meeting of the ECO Tour Operators' Network was held virtually on 23 September 2026 to discuss and exchange ideas regarding the preparations for the 3rd ECO Tour Operators Forum as well as the draft Concept on Establishment of the ECO Tourism Agencies Federation.

49) The 5th Meeting of the ECO-ACT Sub Committee on Transport was held in virtual mode on 13 October 2026 to follow up on the recent improvements in regional connectivity; in particular, the meeting elaborated on the draft ECO Tourism Connectivity Policy 2035 document and the proposal on establishment of a Working Group to pilot the ECO Heritage Train Route within the Roadmap on Expansion of Tourism Services-2030.

63) The ECO Secretariat has also been represented in various tourism-related events hosted by the ECO Member States and has found opportunities to introduce ECO tourism cooperation initiatives to the relevant stakeholders. Deputy Secretary General (DSG) Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev participated in the Turkmen Travel Expo in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 14-16 April 2026; DSG Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt attended the 7th International Congress on Tourism and Travel Dynamics held in Ankara, Türkiye, on 15 April 2026. In addition, DSG Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash participated in the opening ceremonies of the World Phygital Summit and the 2026 World Games of Future in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 29 July 2026, representing the ECO Secretariat. On 19-20 September 2026, a Secretariat delegation led by DSG Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash also took part in a diplomatic visit to the city of Urmia in West Azerbaijan province of Iran and shared the role of the ECO in facilitating economic and commercial cooperation, with particular emphasis on tourism cooperation and the development of regional investment opportunities.

64) On 15 September 2026, the ECO Secretariat dispatched a letter to the new Secretary General of UN Tourism, conveying its congratulations on her assumption of office and expressing its interest in establishing a new partnership between the two organizations. In this connection, the ECO Secretariat formally proposed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation, which would provide a broad and practical framework defining the areas of collaboration between the ECO and UN Tourism.

65) The ECO Secretariat followed up with the Iranian side about the organizational details for holding several events of the 2026 ECO Calendar of Events for which the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its willingness to host such as the 3rd ECO Tour Operators Forum, 2nd ECO-TEN (ECO Tourism Education Network) Meeting, the 2nd Symposium on the Tourism Market of the ECO Member States, the 4th Confobition on Health Tourism together with the 1st Meeting of the ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Health Tourism as well as the 1st ECO Tourism Fair. Member States are also asked to nominate officials for the ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Health Tourism and the Working Group on Hydrotherapy and Spa Tourism. The ECO Secretariat's Tourism Directorate has been collecting the nominations for said platforms. The Secretariat additionally drafted the ECO-TEN Implementation Framework – 2030 to be discussed within the 2nd ECO-TEN Meeting, opening it for the consideration of the Member States.

66) The Tourism Directorate attended the online tourism training organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye within the scope of Ankara's "Turkic World Tourism Capital 2026" events on 17 June 2026.

67) The ECO Secretariat prepared a questionnaire for input to the Second Edition of the ECO Tourism Investment Guide and sent it to the Member States, and volunteers are asked to host the 2nd ECO Tourism Investment and Business Forum before the end of 2026. The Tourism Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan conveyed its intention to host the aforementioned event. The proceedings of the Forum will be reflected within the 2nd ECO Tourism Investment Guide.

68) The Tourism Directorate requested Member States to submit applications for the pilot implementation of the ECO Sustainable Tourism – Common Criteria for Tourism Accommodation Facilities as well as volunteers to host the 8th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Tourism Standardization. The Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan provided four nominations for the pilot implementation of said initiative while Uzbekistan volunteered to host the abovementioned meeting online.

69) The Republic of Uzbekistan provided two nominations for the pilot implementation of said initiative and volunteered to host the abovementioned meeting online.

70) Apart from these, the Tourism Directorate has revised the draft Concept for the Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors according to the mandate of the 36th Regional Planning Council and opened it for the consultation of Member States. The draft Concept was submitted to the 310th CPR Meeting following its reconsideration by the 311th CPR Meeting held on 21 October 2026. However, the matter was deferred for discussion on the request of Türkiye.

Judicial and Parliamentary Cooperation & EAPA

71) In 2026, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen institutional engagement and capacity building across Member States, particularly in the areas of judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

Judicial Cooperation

72) The ECO Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Member States, advanced the implementation of the ECO Plan of Interaction among the Offices of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States. In this regard, the following activities were undertaken jointly by the ECO Secretariat and the Member States:

- The 7th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States, held in Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan on 11-12 September 2026. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of ECO Member States to strengthening prosecutorial and judicial cooperation through enhanced coordination, exchange of best practices, capacity-building, and mutual legal assistance. The participants emphasized effective implementation of the Plan of Interaction among the Offices of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States, supported the early operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
- On the sidelines of the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, the ECO Secretary General, held bilateral meetings with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Iran and Türkiye.
- Republic of Azerbaijan has offered to host the 8th Meeting of Attorneys General/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in Baku at end of December 2027 or early 2028.

Police and Law Enforcement Cooperation

73) The 5th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting was scheduled to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 28-29 October 2026, in order to provide an opportunity to further strengthen police and law enforcement cooperation among the Member States, enhance coordination in combating transnational crime and terrorism, and advance collective efforts towards regional peace, security, and stability. However, the host side has conveyed the postponement of the meeting.

74) On February 23, 2026, ECO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash, met with Dr. Hamidikia, Deputy Head of the Regional and International Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to explore ways to further strengthen cooperation between the ECO Secretariat, Member States, and the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police.

75) The Islamic Republic of Iran has offered to host a series of important regional events aimed at further strengthening police and law enforcement cooperation among ECO Member States, including the 2nd Meeting of Chiefs of Police, the 2nd Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL, the 2nd Meeting of Chiefs of Anti-Narcotics Police, and an ECO Workshop on Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigation.

76) The ECO Secretariat remains in close coordination with the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the modalities and arrangements for organizing the aforementioned events.

Afghanistan Related issues

77) The ECO Secretariat continues to pursue constructive engagement with Afghanistan within the framework of the Organization. Recent discussions at the Council of Permanent Representatives regarding Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities reaffirmed the importance of its continued engagement in regional initiatives and reflected the shared commitment of Member States to promoting inclusive dialogue, regional connectivity, and cooperative engagement.

78) Member States agreed that the Secretariat would continue engagement within the ongoing gradual approach, while the Council would further consider the matter at future meetings.

Establishment of the Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO)

79) Although the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation among Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) entered into force in 2020, the Center has yet to become operational. The finalization of the remaining administrative requirements, including staff and financial regulations, as well as additional ratifications by Member States, would facilitate the commencement of its activities.

80) In this regard, the ECO Secretariat has formally requested the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to facilitate a bilateral meeting between the ECO Secretary General and the President of the General Inspection Organization of Iran to discuss matters related to the operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation among Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO).

Parliamentary Cooperation

81) Parliamentary cooperation under the ECO framework contributes to strengthening legislative dialogue and policy coordination among Member States. Following the operationalization of the PAECO Charter in 2021 and the holding of the 3rd General Conference in Azerbaijan in 2022, the 4th General Conference is expected to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2026. The ECO Secretariat remains in contact with the relevant authorities regarding the arrangements for the event.

Project Management, Economic Research and Statistics

82) Over the past year, the ECO Secretariat has decisively advanced its strategic shift towards modern, high-quality official statistics as the foundation of evidence-based policymaking in the ECO region. Statistics is no longer regarded as a supporting function, but as a strategic pillar of regional cooperation: without reliable, harmonized, and timely data, neither the design of sound regional policies nor the monitoring of commitments undertaken by the Member States is possible. The effective implementation and monitoring of the **Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035** will therefore depend on a robust regional statistical data ecosystem, as well as on a portfolio of realistic and bankable regional projects. Accordingly, in 2026, the Secretariat's efforts in this field have focused on three mutually reinforcing priorities: the **ECO Statistical Dashboard**; the **ECO Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030**; and the strengthening of the **ECO project portfolio** through partnership and resource mobilization with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group and the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB). These priorities have been complemented by the development of regional cooperation in economic research and by the revitalization of the Secretariat's relations with relevant sectoral organizations, notably the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and relevant United Nations bodies.

83) The **ECO Statistical Dashboard** is an initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was presented at the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO) on 16 September 2025 as a regional digital platform for improved accessibility, comparability, and visualization of key indicators. The 36th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (17–20 May 2026) took note of the preparatory work on the Dashboard, and the 310th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on 16 September 2026, unanimously endorsed the project.

84) Once operational, the Dashboard will allow Member States, the Secretariat and other stakeholders to access, compare and visualize harmonized official statistics of the ECO region on a single digital platform. It will thereby support evidence-based policymaking, enhance the transparency and comparability of national data, and provide a practical tool for the regular monitoring of progress towards the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035. The Secretariat expresses its sincere appreciation to the Republic of Kazakhstan for its leadership of this initiative and looks forward to the launch of the Dashboard in December 2026.

85) In parallel, the Secretariat, in close consultation with the national statistical offices of the Member States, prepared the draft **ECO Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030** as the medium-term framework guiding regional statistical cooperation in support of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035. The draft benefited from the valuable comments of the Member

States. The 11th Meeting of the ECO High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Statistics, held in virtual format on **12 October 2026,** reviewed the draft Plan, incorporated the proposals of the Member States, and recommended it for endorsement. Subsequently, the 9th Meeting of the HNSO, held in virtual format on **27 October 2026** under the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the current ECO Chair, endorsed the ECO Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030. The Plan will now serve as the common reference framework for the Secretariat and the national statistical offices in planning and implementing joint statistical activities for the period 2026–2030. The Meeting also reviewed the preparations for the launch of the **ECO Statistical Dashboard** and agreed on the next steps on unifying the set of key statistical indicators to be shared and monitored.

86) Alongside statistics, the Secretariat continues to develop regional cooperation in the field of economic research, which is indispensable for translating data into sound policy recommendations. A central element of this work is the establishment of the **ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC)** in Baku, intended to serve as a regional hub for economic research and innovation. To date, the Charter of the Centre has been signed by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and ratified by the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; the Charter has not yet entered into force. **The Secretariat kindly invites the Republic of Türkiye to expedite the completion of its ratification procedures**, and the other Member States to consider signing the Charter, so as to enable its entry into force and the early operationalization of the Centre.

87) The Secretariat also continues to support the **ECO Economic Journal**, published twice a year, as the Organization's principal platform for regional economic research. Pursuant to the decision of the CPR of December 2025, the Secretariat allocated financial assistance in the amount of USD 5,000 for the publication of the Journal, and the contract with the Azerbaijani partner institution is being finalized. The Secretariat further supports the Journal by facilitating the submission of research papers from academic and research institutions of the Member States. The objective is to elevate the ECO Economic Journal into a peer-reviewed, internationally recognized publication indexed in leading international databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science, and the Secretariat is seeking additional resources from partner institutions to this end.

88) With a view to broadening the partnership base for its statistical and research work, the Secretariat has embarked on revitalizing its relations with relevant sectoral organizations. In this context, the Secretariat re-engaged with the **Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)**, with which ECO has cooperated under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Tehran on 16 January 2018. Building on the text provisionally agreed between the two organizations in 2024, a new draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and reviewed by the Secretariat, which will supersede the 2018 MoU and provide an updated framework for cooperation in official statistics, economic research, and training. The new MoU is expected to be signed in near future, possibly in conjunction with a joint training event for the national statistical offices of the Member States.

89) The Secretariat has likewise intensified its engagement with the United Nations bodies active in the field of statistics and economic research, building on the momentum generated by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/330

entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization", adopted on 5 September 2025. Cooperation is being revitalized, in particular, with the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (ESCAP) and its **Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)**, as well as other relevant UN entities, with a view to aligning ECO statistical work with international standards and good practices, and to mobilizing technical assistance and joint capacity-building programmes for the national statistical offices of the Member States.

90) The Secretariat is convinced that the true measure of regional cooperation lies in joint projects that deliver tangible results on the ground. Working closely with the Member States, the Secretariat has consolidated the **ECO project portfolio**, which currently comprises 39 regional projects covering all areas of cooperation. Recognizing that financing remains a key constraint to the implementation of regional initiatives, and with a view to ensuring that these projects are realistic and bankable, the Secretariat has intensified its partnership and resource mobilization efforts with the IsDB Group and the ETDB.

91) To this end, the Secretariat has proposed to elevate long-standing cooperation through a new **Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding among ECO, the IsDB Group and the ETDB**. Building on the meeting of the Secretary General with the IsDB Vice President (Operations) in Jeddah in November 2025, the Secretariat formally proposed the initiative to the partner institutions in July 2026.

92) The trilateral kick-off meeting, held on 7 September 2026, launched the joint process. The IsDB Group and the ETDB designated their representatives to a Joint Working Group, which brings together the IsDB Partnerships and Regional Integration teams, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), and the ETDB. Following the meeting, the three parties are currently working on the MoU and the Joint Action Plan in parallel. The Joint Action Plan is intended to comprise tangible projects and actions to be jointly developed up to the feasibility stage. Among the areas proposed by the Secretariat are: capacity-building of national statistical offices in the field of Smart Statistics; co-financing of the transformation of the ECO Economic Journal towards international indexing; pre-feasibility studies for projects originating from the Member States; and grants for sustainable and green tendering procedures. Consultations within the Joint Working Group on the draft texts are ongoing, alongside the internal review procedures of the IsDB Group and the ETDB. Upon finalization of both documents and the concurrence of the CPR, the Trilateral MoU and its Joint Action Plan will provide a practical framework for mobilizing grant and concessional financing for ECO regional projects.

93) Taken together, these initiatives will help bridge existing data gaps, strengthen the capacities of the national statistical systems, deepen regional economic research, advance a pipeline of bankable regional projects, and underpin the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035. The Secretariat would kindly count on the continued support and active engagement of the Member States in implementing the Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030, launching the ECO Statistical Dashboard, operationalizing the ECO Research Centre and strengthening the ECO Economic

Journal, finalizing the Trilateral MoU and its Joint Action Plan with the IsDB Group and the ETDB, and deepening cooperation with SESRIC and the United Nations bodies.

94) The 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), held in online format on 28 November 2025 under the chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan, adopted a number of decisions relevant to the areas of project management, economic research and statistics, as reflected in its Report (ECO/COM/29thMeeting/2025). The Secretariat has followed up on these decisions in close consultation with the Member States, relevant ECO bodies and partner institutions. The status of their implementation, as of **18 October 2026**, is summarized in the next point of table of content of the presented Report.

95) The Secretariat would kindly count on the continued support of the Member States in finalizing the review of the ECO project portfolio at PMG-23 and submitting new regional project proposals, adopting and implementing the ECO Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030, launching the ECO Statistical Dashboard, completing the ratification of the Charter of the ECO Research Centre, and finalizing the Trilateral MoU and its Joint Action Plan with the IsDB Group and the ETDB.

Human Resources and Sustainable Development

96) ECO is committed to establishing coherent, equitable, and sustainable frameworks for long-term regional development. Accordingly, ECO continued to prioritize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening cooperation with relevant international organizations, including UNDP, UNESCAP, UNDRR, WHO, UNESCO and IOM.

97) Although progress under the Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD) pillar has varied across sectors, notable achievements have been made in disaster risk reduction. The ECO convened the 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Islamabad on January, 22, 2026, following the High-Level Working Group Meeting process on January 20-21, 2026. The meeting updated the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) 2025–2030 and adopted the Islamabad Declaration.

98) In addition, ECO launched a joint project with UNICEF entitled "Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness" and supported a joint two-year work plan with UNICEF to facilitate its implementation.

99) To further advance regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, ECO plans to convene the 5th Expert Group Meeting on DRR, the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting/Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities and the 3rd Experts Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities to facilitate implementation of the ECORFDRR 2025–2030 and update the ECO Roadmap on DRR.

100) The establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) represents a significant institutional achievement. Given the ECO region's vulnerability to natural disasters, the Center's full operationalization is a strategic priority for strengthening regional cooperation and coordination among Member States. In this regard, Member States' accession to the Center's Statute is essential to facilitating its full operationalization and enhancing its capacity to support regional disaster risk reduction efforts.

101) Regional health cooperation remains a key priority under ECO Vision 2025, particularly in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and advancing universal health coverage (UHC). The 5th Ministerial Meeting on Health in 2023 provided a platform to review progress and guide the implementation of the ECO Action Plan on Health, which serves as the principal regional framework for harmonizing health policies and strengthening cooperation among Member Countries. The Action Plan is envisaged to be reviewed and updated at the forthcoming 6th Ministerial Meeting on Health, subject to a Member State volunteering to host the meeting.

102) In parallel, the ECO Secretariat has engaged with international partners, particularly the regional offices of the World Health Organization (WHO), to strengthen institutional cooperation.

103) In education, ECO Vision 2025 emphasizes the development of regional networks in higher education. In this context, ECO plans to convene 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Education to review the draft Action Plan on the Internationalization of Higher Education in the ECO Region.

104) To translate ECO's Strategic Goals for 2035 into tangible outcomes, the ECO Secretariat will coordinate regional action plans, institutional mechanisms, and regular monitoring, supported by Member States and partnerships with international organizations, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society, and academia. Priorities include policy coherence across sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health, and education; operationalization of the ECO Youth Platform; and strengthening regional technical cooperation. Empowerment of women, youth and family institution will remain cross-cutting priorities, supported by vocational training, digital skills development, and entrepreneurship initiatives to promote equal opportunities, strengthen institutional capacities, foster innovation, and advance inclusive growth, social welfare, and the SDGs across the ECO region.

International Relations

105) ECO has collaborative relations with a host of regional and international organizations. ECO attaches immense importance to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes. ECO has signed MoUs with most UN specialized agencies.

106) ECO has observership in the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). ECO has obtained the reciprocal Observer Status in the International Energy Charter (IEC) and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). Also, ECO is in coordination with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for grant of "SCO Partner" status.

Status of ECO's External Relations: United Nations System

107) ECO intends to enhance its visibility. ECO's relations with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office of High Representative for Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries (UNOHRLLS), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Children Fund and United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and others have been growing steadily in an upward trajectory.

108) ECO regularly features as an observer in the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Meetings with the UN specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations on the sidelines of the UNGA sessions in New York offer an opportunity to augment ECO visibility and deepen ties with those entities. On September 5, 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted a biennial resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization", paving the way for further enhancing cooperation between the UN Agencies and ECO. The ECO Secretary General also participated in the 27th Informal Council of Ministers meeting held in September 2026 on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations general Assembly.

Regional & International Organizations

109) Recognizing the importance of inter-regional cooperation, the Secretariat has worked to strengthen engagement with regional and international organizations. ECO and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 30, 1994, and ECO was granted observer status in the OIC in 1995. ECO regularly participates in most high-level events organized under the OIC framework. On the margins of the General Debate of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, met with H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC. Moreover, during his bilateral visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Khan visited the OIC Secretariat and met with OIC Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Samir Bakr Diab, to further advance ECO–OIC

cooperation. Both sides are working to reinforce their partnership and translate it into concrete action, beginning with the exchange of a concept note.

110) ECO intends to obtain observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO Following the meeting between the Secretary General and the SCO Secretary General, and upon approval by the CPR, ECO formally submitted a request for observer status at the SCO. The SCO has informed ECO about the introduction of the SCO partner status and remains in communication with ECO.

111) ECO and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) share common objectives in fostering regional economic integration, trade facilitation, and connectivity. Both sides are working to give their partnership a formal basis through the signing of an MoU.

112) ECO has also maintained partnership with Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The ECO Secretary General H.E. Asad m. Khan met the CICA Secretary general on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference held in march 2026. Moreover, ECO also participated in 7th CICA Summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 15th October 2026 reiterating commitment to practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest

ECO Observers

113) Observership in the ECO is open to regional and international organizations, states, and institutions. Current observers include the Turkish Cypriot State (2012), the Organization of Turkic States (2014), and the International Energy Charter (2017). ECO has enhanced its collaboration with the International Energy Charter—where the two enjoy reciprocal observer status—particularly in advancing the establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM). ECO-REM has been identified as a priority area for ECO–Energy Charter cooperation and is expected to be implemented through a joint consortium.

114) The Turkish Cypriot State became an observer to the ECO in 2012, with its status renewed in November 2023 for another three years. The Organization of Turkic States (OTS) joined the ECO as an observer in 2014, and the ECO was granted reciprocal observer status in the OTS on 11 November 2023 during the 10th OTS Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

List of key MoUs/Agreements between ECO and other Regional and International Organizations

115) In order to develop meaningful cooperative relations with international and regional organizations, ECO has signed 50 MoUs and Agreements with the UN system as well as other regional and international organizations. The list of those MoUs/Agreement is given below:

1. MoU between ECO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Istanbul, 7 July 1993.
2. MoU between ECO and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Istanbul. 7 July 1993.
3. MoU on Cooperation between ECO and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Tehran, 25 January 1994.
4. Relationship Agreement between ECO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Tehran, 25 January 1994.
5. MoU between ECO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), New York, 30 September 1994.
6. MoU between ECO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New York, 4 October 1994.
7. MoU between ECO and United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP), Islamabad, 15 March 1995.
8. MoU between ECO and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Islamabad, 15 March 1995.
9. MoU between ECO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 8 December 1997.
10. MoU between ECO and International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), Aleppo, Syria, 8 June 1999.
11. MoU between ECO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 23 November 1999.
12. MoU between ECO and the International Union of Railways (UIC), Tehran, 31 January 2001.
13. MoU between ECO Secretariat and the International Trade Center UNCTAD/WTO, 8 March 2001.
14. MoU between ECO and the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), Warsaw, 17 March 2001.
15. MoU between ECO and the World Custom Organization (WCO), Brussels, 17 March 2003.
16. MoU between ECO and the Colombo Plan (1 Version), 13 May 2003 (Joint Communiqué, Tehran, 24 November 2009).
17. MoU between ECO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 24 June 2004.
18. MoU between ECO and UNEP, Tehran, 18 August 2004.
19. MoU between ECO and WMO, Geneva, 10 December 2004.
20. MoU between ECO Secretariat and the Secretariat of ASEAN, 18 January 2006.
21. MoU between ECO and the UN International Strategy for Disasters Relief (ISDR), Tehran, 9 May 2007.
22. MoU between ECO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ashgabat, 11 December 2007.
23. MoU between ECO and International Road Transport Union, Istanbul, 15 May 2008.
24. MoU between ECO and the Conference of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Almaty, 25 August 2008.
25. MoU between ECO and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Bern & Tehran, 20 November 2008
26. MoU between ECO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, 27 January 2009.
27. MoU among ECO, ESCAP and the Islamic Development Bank on Transport Development, Bangkok & Tehran, 9 March 2009.
28. MoU between ECO and Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Istanbul, 9 June 2009.

29. MoU between ECO and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission (TRACECA), Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 16 June 2009.
30. MoU among Economic Cooperation Organization, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on Transport Development, 9 March 2009 (signed through an exchange of letters in March 2009, as per article XI (b). (this MoU was renewed in 2012 and expired in March 2015).
31. Protocol between ECO and Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) on reconstruction, Tehran, 5 August 2010.
32. MoU between ECO and International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), 30 August 2010.
33. MoU among Economic Cooperation Organization, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Concerning Transport Development in Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Region, 30 March 2011.
34. MoU between ECO and D8, Istanbul, 6 October 2011.
35. MoU between ECO and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, New York, 23 September 2014.
36. MoU between ECO and UNOSSC, New York, 19 September 2017.
37. MoU between ECO and SESRIC, ECO Secretariat, Tehran, 16 January 2018.
38. MoU between ECO and WIPO, 22 January 2018.
39. MoU between ECO and TEPAV, Ankara, 12 February 2018.
40. MoU between ECO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Ashgabat, 27 November 2021.

ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies

116) The establishment of the specialized agencies, regional institutions, regional centres and affiliated bodies the intergovernmental sub-organizations of the ECO – is a manifestation of ECO's commitment for supporting the organization's broad objectives enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir. These objectives are aimed at promoting socio-economic development of the Member States mainly by developing and expanding cooperation in the relevant areas.

117) Over the years, the Member States have established a number of specialized agencies, regional institutions and other ECO bodies in different fields of cooperation such as science, education, culture, trade, banking, agriculture, environment, economic research etc. Presently, the number of such bodies stands at over 20. These bodies are located in the Member States, mainly in Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye. While most of these bodies have already been established and are operational, others are in the process of being established.

118) ECO is working to reconnect with its family of subsidiary institutes, which are essential for advancing the Organization's development agenda more effectively and efficiently. The Sixth Meeting of Board of Trustees of ECO Science Foundation was held in Islamabad in in July 2026.

119) For the first time, during ECO Week in Karabakh, Azerbaijan—featuring the ECO Youth Forum, ECO Women's Forum, and ECO Business Forum—ECO agencies were invited and participated actively. Strengthening engagement with these agencies remains a top priority for the ECO Secretariat. On December 4, 2024, on the margins of the 28th Council of Ministers Meeting in Mashhad, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan visited the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM), headquartered in Mashhad. He also visited the ECO College of Insurance in Tehran; the ECO Postal Staff College during a bilateral visit to Pakistan in July 2024; and, during an official visit to the Republic of Türkiye, the headquarters of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) and the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB). These efforts underscore the ECO's commitment to reuniting its agencies and integrating them more closely into its work.

C. Financial and Administrative Matters

Draft ECO Budget 2027

120) The ECO Draft Budget for 2027 was considered during two Budget Working Group Meetings held on August 18 and September 9, 2026. Following extensive deliberations, the revised Draft Budget was submitted to the 310th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on September 15, 2026, where it was provisionally adopted with the concurrence of all Member States except the Republic of Kazakhstan, which expressed reservations regarding the proposed increase in its assessed contribution.

121) To address the matter, the ECO Secretary General addressed a letter to the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, seeking its concurrence with the revised Draft Budget. During the 311th CPR Meeting, held on October 21, 2026, the delegation of Kazakhstan informed the Meeting that concurrence from its capital was still awaited. The matter remains pending for finalization.

Amendment to the ECO Financial Regulations – Composition of the Audit Board.

122) In response to the request of the Republic of Kazakhstan to join the ECO Audit Board, the 309th Meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on August 25, 2026 endorsed the proposed amendment to Article 18 of the ECO Financial Regulations, increasing the membership of the Audit Board from three to four Member States, with a quorum of three members to ensure its effective functioning. The proposed amendment was subsequently submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval through a two-week silence procedure.

123) Following the amendment to the ECO Financial Regulations, the CPR endorsed the revised composition of the Audit Board, comprising **Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Türkiye for a three-year term**. Upon successful completion of the subsequent two-week silence procedure, the revised composition of the ECO Audit Board was formally approved.

HLC Working Group meetings' reports and decisions

First Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC)

124) The 1st Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of the ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers, held on February 3, 2025, reviewed a broad range of Administrative, financial and operational matters and put forward a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the ECO Secretariat and its functioning.

125) In follow-up to these recommendations, the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) established an HLC Working Group to examine the HLC Report and develop concrete proposals for their implementation. The Working Group held three meetings and deliberations were also during the CPR meetings to finalizing these proposals in consultation with the Member States and the Secretariat. 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. The Secretariat already prepared draft proposals for the remaining chapters but had not yet circulated them, pending Kazakhstan's response.

Administrative Matters

126) Despite the exceptional security challenges arising from the regional situation during the period from June 2025 to July 2026, the ECO Secretariat demonstrated institutional resilience, operational efficiency and unwavering commitment to fulfilling

its mandate. Throughout this challenging period, the Secretariat successfully maintained the continuity of its functions and ensured the effective implementation of the Organization's programme of work.

127) In response to the prevailing security situation in Tehran, the Secretariat, taking into account the arrangements adopted by the Embassies of the Member States, introduced flexible working arrangements, including remote working, to safeguard the well-being of its staff while ensuring the uninterrupted functioning of the Organization. These arrangements enabled the Secretariat to sustain its institutional activities and maintain effective coordination and communication with Member States and relevant regional and international partner organizations.

128) Despite the challenging circumstances, the Secretariat successfully organized, coordinated and participated in a wide range of high-level, technical and sectoral meetings, both in-person and through online/hybrid formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat also maintained active engagement with regional and international partner organizations. The Secretariat also continued its participation in important regional and international events, thereby sustaining the visibility of ECO and advancing the Organization's objectives in various areas of regional cooperation.

129) During this period a core group of Iranian managerial, professional and support staff maintained a continuous physical presence at the Secretariat, ensuring the smooth functioning of essential administrative, financial, technical and logistical operations, while facilitating coordination with international staff working remotely. Their dedication, together with the sustained efforts of international and other locally recruited staff, played a pivotal role in preserving institutional stability and ensuring the effective discharge of the Secretariat's responsibilities.

130) The Secretariat also remained attentive to the welfare of its personnel, who faced considerable personal and financial challenges arising from the exceptional circumstances, including family evacuations, temporary relocation, additional accommodation expenses and continuing contractual obligations. In recognition of these hardships and the dedicated services rendered by its staff, the Secretariat initiated consideration of a proposal for one-time financial compensation, which was subsequently approved by the 310th CPR held on September 15, 2026.

131) The successful maintenance of uninterrupted operations, continued implementation of mandated activities and sustained engagement with Member States and international partners reaffirmed the Secretariat's institutional capacity to effectively fulfil its responsibilities even under extraordinary circumstances.

D. Agreements/Treaties concluded among ECO Member States

Latest Status of the ECO Agreements
ECO Secretariat-Legal Advisor Office
Tehran- October, 2026

1- Treaty of Izmir 14 September, 1996 Izmir

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	Afghanistan	Yes	No	24 September 2002 as per Art.16 (2) of the Treaty
2	Azerbaijan	Yes	Yes	
3	Iran	Yes	Yes	
4	Kazakhstan	Yes	Yes	
5	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes	
6	Pakistan	Yes	Yes	
7	Tajikistan	Yes	Yes	
8	Türkiye	Yes	Yes	
9	Turkmenistan	Yes	Yes	

10	**Uzbekistan**	**Yes**	Yes	
		10	9	

Depositary: The Government of the I. R. of Iran

*- The **Treaty of Izmir** was originally signed at Izmir, Türkiye on 12 March 1977 by Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye and amended in 1990 and 1992 as the basic Charter of the Economic Cooperation Organization, later in early 1990s the membership of the Organization expanded to 10 and subsequently on 14th September 1996 the revised version of Treaty of Izmir was signed by 10 Member States. The Treaty of Izmir of 1996 superseded the agreement of 1977 and the aforesaid protocols.*

2- Agreement on Legal Status of the ECO National Representatives and International Staff, 14 September 1996, Izmir

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	No	**Not yet**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	**Yes**	No	
		10	5	

Depositary: The Government of the I. R. of IRAN

- As per Article XIV of the Treaty of Izmir the Agreement on the Legal Status of the Economic Cooperation Organization, National Representatives and International Staff shall be an annex to the Treaty of Izmir. This Agreement shall enter into force after two-thirds of the Member States deposit their instruments of ratification with the depositary.

3- Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the ECO Member States: Islamabad, 15 March 1995

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	The fourth instrument of ratification was deposited on 23 October 1997
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	

9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		7	5	

Depositary: The ECO Secretariat

- As per Article VIII of the Agreement, the Agreement shall enter into force on the sixty's day after the date on which more than three Member States deposited the instrument of ratification with ECO Secretariat. The fourth instrument of ratification was deposited on 23rd October 1997. However, problems such as lack of visa policies in some Member States have impeded effective implementation of the Agreement.

- At the 8th RPC Meeting held on 19-21 April 1998 (para 37), the RPC expressed its satisfaction regarding the entry into force of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the Member States and requested that signatory Member States who have not yet ratified the Agreement (i.e., Azerbaijan & Turkmenistan) to expedite the process and also invited the Non-signatory Member States (i.e., Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan) to join the agreement.

4- Additional Protocol on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of the ECO Member States, Tehran, 9 March, 2009

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	No	**Not yet**
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	No	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	No	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		3	1	

Depositary: The ECO Secretariat

-In order to bring in harmony implementation of the "Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of ECO Member States" with the internal procedures the Additional Protocol was approved by the 18th COM meeting on 9th March, 2009 in Tehran.

- As per Article VIII, the protocol comes into force by Ratification of at least five States Parties.

-The Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited the instrument of ratification of the Additional Protocol of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of the ECO Member States (adopted at Tehran on 9th March, 2009) through the Note Verbale sent to the ECO Secretariat (No. ECO-7/12/2011 dated 26 January 2011).

5- Articles of Agreement of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (TDB) Islamabad, 15 March 1995

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force

1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	3 August 2005
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		6	6	

Depositary: Principal Office of the Bank

-The Agreement came into force in accordance with Article 44. The Bank became fully operational in 2008. The bank is located in Istanbul, Türkiye. The representative offices of the bank started functioning in Iran and Pakistan in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

6- The Charter of ECO Cultural Institute, Islamabad, 15 March 1995

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Entered into force upon signature**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	Yes	
9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		8	5	

Depositary: The Government of the I. R. of Iran

-The Institute became functional as per Article VIII of the Charter which provides that "Following its approval by the ECO Council of Ministers, the Charter of the Institute will come into force for each country according to its ratification or approval procedure based on its national regulation."

-Some articles of the charter have undergone amendments and are considered as Annexes of the Charter, Annex I approved at the 10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers held in Tehran on 8 June 2000 and Annex II approved by 18th COM held on 9th March 2009.

-The depositary through the Note Verbal No.531/1105449 dated 9 March 2022 informed the Secretariat on the deposit of the Instrument of Ratification of the Charter of ECOCI by the Republic of Türkiye.

7- The Charter of ECO Science Foundation Islamabad, 15 March 1995

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force

1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	Yes
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
10	**Uzbekistan**	**Yes**	No	
		10	5	

Depositary: Government of the I. R. of Pakistan

-The Charter ratified by required number of signatory States and entered into force. However, some amendments to the Charter were proposed by Azerbaijan, Iran, Tajikistan and Türkiye.
The amended version was discussed and finalized at the 1st Experts Group Meeting (Sep 3-4, 2007, Islamabad). Subsequently the 17th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) approved the Additional Protocol to the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation.

-The 2nd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of the ECO Science Foundation (August, 2010-ECO Secretariat) inter alia finalized the draft Working Formula, draft Initial Budgetary estimates, draft Rules of Procedure and draft Staff Regulations of the Foundation.

-The First meeting of Bot of ECOSF preceded by a High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting was held on 19-20 December, 2011 at Islamabad. The Meeting, inter alia, approved the Basic Documents (Draft Working Formula, Draft Budgetary Estimates for the year 2011/2012, Draft Rules of Procedure and Draft Staff Regulations) of the ECOSF and rendered the Foundation functional.

-The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran through Note verbal No.2823 dated 14 May 2015 provided the Secretariat with a copy of Instrument of Accession of Afghanistan to ECOSF.

- The Report of Second BoT under agenda item No. 7 concerning the status of ratification of the charter and protocol confirmed the ratification of the instruments by Afghanistan.

-Since the government of Pakistan is the depository of the charter and the additional protocol, the latest update is needed to be confirmed by the Government of Pakistan, or the Secretariat of the ECO Science Foundation, especially with respect to the ratification of the additional protocol.
-The sixth meeting of the BoT of ECOSF was held on July 22, 2026 in Islamabad, Pakistan

8- The Charter of ECO Educational Institute, Almaty, 9 May 1998

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	

3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	Yes
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		8	7	

Depositary: Government of Republic of Türkiye

-The Charter has been registered with the UN Secretariat as per Article 102 of the UN Charter on 1 July, 2009 under the registration Number 46360 by the Government of Türkiye.

- 1st Meeting of BoT of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) was held on April 3, 2012 in Ankara and it rendered ECOEI functional.

- By the note verbal No. 2823 dated 14 May 2015, the Embassy of Afghanistan provided the Secretariat with a copy of Instrument of Accession deposited with the Government of Türkiye as the Depositary.

According to the letter dated December 8, 1998, and numbered 1457, sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye "President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed the Decree No.13 on 22 November 1998 on the approval of the "Charter of the ECO Educational Institute" signed at Almaty on 9 May 1998.

-2nd BoT meeting of the Educational Institute was held in July 2017 in Istanbul.
-3rd Bot meeting of the Educational Institute was held virtually on 12 August 2020.
-4th Bot meeting of the Educational Institute was also held on 5 August 2023 in Istanbul.

9- Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), Almaty, 9 May 1998

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	19 March 2006
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	

		9	8	

Depositary: ECO Secretariat

-TTFA came into force in March 2006. To facilitate the implementation of the TTFA a Fund was established to support the activities of under this framework agreement.

10- Framework Agreement on ECO Trade Cooperation, Tehran, 6 March 2000

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	No	**Yes**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	**Yes**	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		9	6	

Depositary: ECO Secretariat

- As per Article 14 of the Framework Agreement on ECO Trade Cooperation the agreement shall enter into force after the notification of approval of ratification by at least five ECO Member States to the ECO Secretariat.

- RPC at its 11th Meeting held on 1 March 2001 expressed satisfaction over the signing of the ECO Framework Agreement on Trade (ECOFAT) by eight Member States during the 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade, held in Tehran from 4 to 6 March, 2000 and noted that out of the eight signatory Member States, only the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Türkiye had so far ratified the ECOFAT. The Council urged the remaining Member States to expedite the process of ratification in order to bring into effect the early implementation of the Agreement. The Council further urged the Republic of Kazakhstan to deposit the instruments of ratification/approval with the ECO Secretariat. The non-signatory Member States i.e., Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan were requested by the RPC to consider, joining the Agreement so as to enhance its scope and effectiveness (para 35).

-At 12th RPC Meeting held on 6 March 2002 the it was mentioned that since its last meeting Kyrgyz Republic had also ratified the ECO Framework Agreement on ECO Trade Cooperation (FAT). However, the Council noted with concern the slow pace of the ratification process and requested those signatory Member States (i.e., Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan) who have not yet ratified the Agreement, to expedite the approval/ratification process of the subject Agreement. The Council also requested non-signatory Member States (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to consider joining the FAT.

- RPC at its 13th Meeting held on 20-22 April 2003 while, recognizing the importance of early completion of the process of ratification in respect of ECO Framework Agreement on Trade Cooperation (ECOFAT), requested Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan to expedite the

approval/ratification process. The Council also requested non-signatory member states i.e., Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to consider joining the said Agreement.

-The framework agreement on ECO Trade Cooperation was signed by Turkmenistan on 30 may 2021 during the official visit of Secretary General to Turkmenistan.

11- ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), Islamabad, 17 July 2003

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**24 April, 2008**
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		5	5	

Depositary: ECO Secretary General

- ECO Trade Agreement was concluded and signed in 2003. Subsequently in July 2005 a Protocol regarding Annexes to the ECOTA signed by signatory states of the agreement except for Tajikistan.

- Para I of Article 39 of the Agreement provides that the Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day of the receipt of the fifth instrument of ratification. The fifth instrument of ratification deposited by Iran and the Agreement came into force on 24th April, 2008.

-Tajikistan has deposited its instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretary General before the adoption of the protocol regarding the Annexes in 2005.

12- Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) Istanbul, 7 July 2005.

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	Entry into force takes place two months after the deposit of fourth instrument of ratification. The fourth instrument of
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	

6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	ratification was deposited on 17 March 2022.
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		5	**4**	

Depositary: ECO Secretary General

- Paragraph 7 of Article 9 of the APPI was amended at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy (5-7 April 2007 – Antalya).

-This Agreement shall come into force after two months of the date of deposit of fourth Instrument of Ratification (Article 12).

-The Protocol on amendment to Article 9(7) of the Agreement has so far been signed by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye.

-The Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the instruments of ratification of the Agreement and Protocol on 6 June 2010.

-The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement with the ECO Secretariat by the note verbal No. ECO-7/5/2016/51 dated 8 May 2016.

- Copy of the instrument of ratification of APP was sent to the depositary through the Note Verbale No.2328-5 dated 24 November 2019 by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran).

- The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye sent a copy of Instrument of Ratification of APPI and Protocol on Amendment to Article 9(7) of the APPI through the Note Verbal No. Z-2022/99530379/34003254 dated 17 February 2022. Original Copy of the instrument of ratification was received on 17 March 2022 by the Note Verbal No. Z-2022/99530379/34125407 issued on 14 March 2022 by the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran.

**Protocol on Amendment to Article 9(7) of the APPI was done on 7 April 2007 and signed by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye.*

13- Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank: Istanbul, 7 July 2005.

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes***	**Yes** Entered into Force 30 December 2017
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	

		6	5	

Depositary: ECO Secretariat

- The Agreement shall come into force on the 30th day after the date at least four instruments of ratification deposited with the Secretariat (Article IX- 2).

-The Republic of Türkiye deposited its instrument of Ratification with the Secretariat by the Note verbal issued on 17th August 2009 which was received on 20 August 2009.-The Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited the Instrument of Ratification with the ECO Secretariat through the Note verbal issued by the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran on 19 February 2011. The Depositary received the Note verbal and the original copy of the Instrument of Ratification on 20 February 2011.

-The Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement with the depositary on 20 October 2015.
- The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan has sent a copy of the instrument of ratification of Azerbaijan via the note verbale (4-628/17 dated 23 November 2017). The Original Copy received on 30th November 2017 through the Note Verbale No. 4-633/17 dated 28 November).

-The agreement came into force on 30th day after the deposit of fourth instrument of ratification by Azerbaijan, that is, 30 December 2017.

** On 29th June 2020, a copy of the instrument of ratification of the Agreement by Afghanistan was sent to the Secretariat through the Note Verbale No. 500-5 dated 29 June 2020. The Embassy was requested to send the original version to the depositary.*

14- **Articles of Agreement on the Establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company Islamabad, 10 February 2010.**

	States	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Entry into force**
1	**Afghanistan**	No	No	**Yes** Entered into Force 3 December 2017 after the deposition of the 3rd Instrument of ratification by Türkiye
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		3	3	

Depositary: ECO Secretariat

- The HLEG/Trilateral Interim Committee Meeting, held in Islamabad, in May 2007, finalized the Articles of Agreement for the Establishment of the ECO Reinsurance Company.

- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited the instrument of ratification on 30 August 2010.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the instrument of ratification on 12 October 2011.

- The Republic of Türkiye deposited the instrument of ratification on 3 December 2017.

- Article XXVI of the Articles of Agreement of ECO Reinsurance Company provides that the Agreement shall come into force when instruments of ratification or acceptance have been deposited and full subscription of the share capital have been paid by the three founding members of the Company. The Secretariat of the ECO shall inform the Members of the date of entry into force of the Articles of Agreement (Establishment Date).

15- The Statute of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM) Tehran, 9 March 2009, and the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of RISCAM

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Entered into Force 10 November 2020**
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		4	4	

Depositary: ECO Secretariat/ Secretary General

- The Statute of ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM) was approved at the 18th Meeting of the Council of Minister (COM) along with the Road Map for its provisional implementation. The Headquarters of RISCAM will be located in Iran. The Secretariats of the Technical Management Board (TMB) of Standardization and Accreditation will be located in Türkiye, Metrology in – Pakistan (as amended by the Protocol) and Conformity Assessment in Iran.

- As per Road Map for provisional Implementation of Statute of RISCAM, an Interim Coordination Unit (ICU) has been established at the ECO Secretariat under the Directorate of AIT.

- Article 17 of the Statute of the RISCAM provides that the Statute shall come into force after Four signatory states have deposited their instrument of Ratification with the ECO Secretary General/ECO Secretariat.

- Iran has deposited the instrument of ratification of the Statute with the Secretariat in 2012.

- on 3 October 2017 Türkiye deposited the instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretariat.

-During the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 17 April 2018 in Dushanbe, the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of RISCAM has been adopted by the Council. At the same meeting Pakistan signed both the Statute and Protocol and the signatory states of the Statute (Afghanistan, Iran and Türkiye) signed the Protocol at Dushanbe after its adoption by the Council.
The Embassy of Pakistan provided the Secretariat with the original copy of the Instrument of Ratification of the RISCAM through the Note Verbale No. ECO-7/18/2018/14 dated 31 July 2018.

- The Instrument of Ratification by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was deposited with the depositary on 10 November 2020. By deposition of this instrument the Statute of RISCAM entered into Force on 10th November 2020 (Note Verbale. 1334-5 dated 9 November 2020).
- The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye through Note Verbale No. Z-2022/99530379 /34003085 dated 17 Feb 2022 sent a copy of the instrument of ratification of protocol amending Article 5.4.1.10. The Original copy of the instrument of ratification was deposited on 17 March 2022 by the Note Verbale of Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran No.Z-2022/99530379/34125407 issued on 14 March 2022.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the original copy of the Instrument of Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of RISCAM with the Secretariat on 12 January 2023. Copy of the said instrument of ratification was sent to the Secretariat by the Note Verbale No.641/1405785 dated 2 January 2023.

16. The Statute of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)- Done at Istanbul, 23 December 2010

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes***	**Yes****	**Not Yet**
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	No	No	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	No	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		2	2	

Depositary: The Secretary General of ECO

-The Statute was approved at Istanbul-Türkiye on 23rd of December, 2010. Article XV(5) of the Statute of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO), provides that the Statute shall enter into force 30 days after receiving the 5th instrument of ratification by the Secretary - General of the ECO.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the Instrument of Ratification of Iran with the depository through the note verbal No. 643/2640736 dated April 28, 2014 receipt date (6 May 2014).

**On 9th November 2019 during the 24th Meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Antalya, the head of delegation of Afghanistan signed the Statute of ECO-VECO the instrument of accession of which had already been deposited with the depositary.*

**The Embassy of Afghanistan provided the Depository (Secretary General of ECO) with a copy of Instrument of Accession of Afghanistan to the Statute through the Note Verbale No.3250 dated 01/Feb/2017.On 6 November 2017 the ECO Secretariat was provided with the Original Copy of the Instrument of Accession to the Statute by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran through the note verbale No. 2430 -5 dated 5/11/2017. The Instrument of accession was sent to the depositary prior to its entry into force.*

17. The Statute of the ECO Regional Center of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), 21 November 2012, Dushanbe

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	22 September 2020
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	No	
8	**Türkiye**	No	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		5	4	

Depositary: The ECO Secretariat

The Statute was approved in the Second Meeting of the Heads of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of ECO which was held on 21-22 November 2012 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan signed the Statute.

According to Article 15(2) of the Statute, "…Statute shall enter into force after four Member States deposit their instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretariat…"

The Islamic Republic of Iran has deposited its Instrument of Ratification under article 15(2) of the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) on 10 July 2016. The Instrument was sent to the Secretariat by the note verbal No. 643/362/4200258 dated 26 June 2016. The Instrument of Ratification contains a reservation as regards article 14 relating to settlement of disputes and article 17 relating to amendments. The Member States have been informed on this development by the Depositary (ECO Secretariat) through Note verbal No.LA/Treaties/ RCCACO/Depository/910 dated 19 July 2016.

- The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Zahir Shah, Director General Operations of National Accountability Bureau of the Pakistan has signed the Statute during the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of Anti –Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States held on 6-7 June 2017 in Baku. In May 2018 the Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited the instrument of ratification.

- The Republic of Azerbaijan after signing the Statute on 11 September 2018 deposited the instrument of ratification on 27 August 2019.

** The Original copy of the Instrument of ratification by Afghanistan was deposited on 22nd September 2020.*

18. Charter of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO) Done at February 11-12, 2013, Islamabad

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	**Yes**	No	**June 2022**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	**Yes**	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	**Yes**	No	
		7	4	

Depositary: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Charter of the Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Member States (PAECO) entered into force in June 2022 following ratification by Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye. Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have signed the Charter. During the 2nd General Conference of PAECO, Afghanistan announced that it has completed its internal procedures for ratifying the Charter. However, since the Secretariat has not yet received the official instrument of ratification, Afghanistan will currently be regarded as a signatory country to the Charter of PAECO.

19. Charter of ECO Research Center, Done at Tehran, 26 November 2013

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	No	No	**Not Yet**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	No	No	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		3	2	

Depositary: Republic of Azerbaijan

The Council of Ministers approved the establishment of ECO Research Center in Baku and its charter at its 21st Meeting held in Tehran, Iran, 24-26 November 2013.

- The Charter was signed by Azerbaijan and Türkiye on 4 March 2021 during the virtual meeting of 14th Summit held on the said date hosted by the Republic of Türkiye.

-The Charter of ECO Research Center was signed by the H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during 26th COM Meeting held on 24 January 2023 in Tashkent.

-The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan through Note-Verbal No. 3-20-11 dated 10 March 2023 declared that the Charter of ECO Research Center was ratified by Azerbaijan by the Law No. 798-VIQ on February 1, 2023
-The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran through Note Verbale No.656 dated November 27 2024 declared that Pakistan has ratified the Charter of ECO Research Center in May 10 2024.

20. Charter of the ECO Clean Energy Center, Done at Ashgabat, 27 November 2021

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	No	No	**August 26, 2025**
2	**Azerbaijan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
3	**Iran**	No	No	
4	**Kazakhstan**	**Yes**	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
6	**Pakistan**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	**Yes**	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	**Yes**	No	
		6	3	

Depositary: ECO Secretary General

The Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center was concluded at 25th Meeting of COM held on 27 November 2021 in Ashgabat.

Article IX of the Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center was amended at 26th COM Meeting held on 24 January 2023 as per the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Charter was not signed by the Member States during the COM Meeting in which it was concluded. The Charter is open for signature at the ECO Secretariat.

In February March 2023 the Charter of Clean Energy Center was signed by the Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan in Baku.

The Charter was signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye during 27th COM in Shusha, Azerbaijan.
The Charter was signed by Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan in August 2024.
The Charter was signed by the Minister of Energy of Kyrgyz Republic on 15 November 2024 on the sideline of COP 29 in Baku.
The Charter was signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Pakistan during 28th COM in Mashhad, Iran.
The Charter was ratified by the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 3, 2025 Law NO. 131-VIIQ (Note Verbale No. 5-024/25 dated March 19, 2025 form the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran)
The Charter was signed by Minister of Energy of c Republic of Kazakistan during 17th Summit in Azerbaijan.
The Charter was ratified by the Kyrgyz Republic (Note Verbale No. 208-17 dated August 13, 2025 from the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran)
The Charter was ratified by the Pakistan (Note Verbale No. ECO-7/5 / 2055-B/04 dated August 26, 2025 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran)
The Charter entered into force on August 26, 2025 (Note Verbale No. LA /2025/1341 dated August 28, 2025)

21. Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM), Done at Tashkent, 24 January 2023

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	**Afghanistan**	No	No	**Not Yet**
2	**Azerbaijan**	No	No	
3	**Iran**	**Yes**	No	
4	**Kazakhstan**	No	No	
5	**Kyrgyzstan**	No	No	
6	**Pakistan**	No	No	
7	**Tajikistan**	No	No	
8	**Türkiye**	No	No	
9	**Turkmenistan**	No	No	
10	**Uzbekistan**	No	No	
		1	0	

The Statute of ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) was adopted at 26th COM Meeting held on 24 January 2023 in Tashkent.

The Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) was signed by the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran during 26th COM Meeting.

22. Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters, Done on 26 June 2025

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	Afghanistan	No	No	
2	Azerbaijan	No	No	
3	Iran	Yes	No	
4	Kazakhstan	No	No	
5	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	No	
6	Pakistan	Yes	No	
7	Tajikistan	No	No	
8	Türkiye	Yes	No	
9	Turkmenistan	No	No	
10	Uzbekistan	No	No	
		4	0	

Depositary: ECO Secretary General

The Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters was approved by the Council of Ministers through silence procedure, Note Verbale: No: 2025/1029 dated 26 June 2025

The Agreement was signed by 4 ECO Member States (Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Turkiye) during the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, held on November 26, 2025, in Istanbul.

23. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Joint Trade Promotion Activities among ECO Member States, Done on 26 June 2025

	States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
1	Afghanistan	No	No	
2	Azerbaijan	No	No	
3	Iran	Yes	No	
4	Kazakhstan	No	No	
5	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	No	
6	Pakistan	Yes	No	
7	Tajikistan	No	No	
8	Türkiye	Yes	No	
9	Turkmenistan	No	No	
10	Uzbekistan	No	No	
		4	0	

Depositary: ECO Secretary General

The MoU was approved by the Council of Ministers through silence procedure, Note Verbale: No: 2025/1028 dated 26 June 2025

The MoU was signed by 4 ECO Member States (Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Turkiye) during the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, held on November 26, 2025, in Istanbul.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

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

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2025/1952

Priority: Normal
Date: 17/12/2025
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, has the honour to enclose herewith the Report of 301st Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on November 17, 2025, and adopted by the 302nd CPR Meeting held on December 17, 2025.

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

301st Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

November 17, 2025
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Report

The 301st Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on November 17, 2025 was presided over by the Republic of **Kazakhstan**. The meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives from ECO Member States including **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant Secretariat's personnel also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

2. The following agenda was adopted by the Council for discussion and deliberations:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 301st CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 300th CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the outcomes of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan;
- Preparation for the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Kazakhstan;
- Follow-up of the outcomes of 28th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM):
  - Formulation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation - 2035;
  - Sequencing of the ECO Summit and COM Meetings under one ECO Chairmanship.
- Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
- Recommendations to the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade;
- Endorsement of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
  - Transfer and reallocation of funds between different Chapters of the ECO budget for 2025 without increasing in the size of total budget;
  - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 300th CPR Meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 300th CPR Meeting, circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1631 dated October 26, 2025, along with the amendments proposed by Türkiye, as circulated on November 5, 2025, and the amendment proposed by Kazakhstan's Representative, during the meeting, to revise paragraph 12 of the said report to reflect the names of the countries that emphasized

that the COM, as the highest decision-making body of the Organization, should continue to be held in person.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up of the Outcomes of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

4. The **Chairman** recalled that the 300th CPR Meeting deferred the matter pending inputs from all Member States, and had tasked the Secretariat to revise the plan of work accordingly. He invited delegations to share any final comments and noted the need to determine a clear timeline for completing the document.

5. The **Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA)** explained that the plan of work is an internal and flexible working document of the Secretariat, which traditionally has not required formal adoption by the Member States. He explained that proposals from Member States are incorporated as received, and the updated version is circulated for information rather than endorsement.

6. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** clarified that previous practice had involved formal adoption of the plan of work and emphasized the need for the CPR to finalize and approve the document after incorporating all Member States' inputs so that it may serve as a clear mandate for implementation by the Secretariat. He noted that instructions from Heads of State required a finalized and adopted plan rather than an open-ended working paper, enabling its submission to the COM.

7. The **ECO Secretary General** illuminated that, while different terms, such as "adopt," "endorse," or "authorize", may have been used in various contexts, the essential requirement was to avoid keeping the document open-ended. He stressed the need to set a firm deadline for the submission of any remaining comments, after which the Secretariat would consolidate the draft and return it to the Council for approval in line with established practice.

8. The **Chairman**, in closing, stress that a deadline was necessary to ensure timely completion of the process. He proposed November 30, 2025 as the date for submitting any outstanding comments, with a possible extension of deadline to December 10, 2025, if necessary. Following different views, he suggested an earlier deadline of November 23, 2025 to allow the Secretariat adequate time to circulate a finalized draft and ensure that it could be presented to the COM.

9. Accordingly, the **Council** agreed to set November 23, 2025 as the deadline for the submission of final inputs, noting that the Secretariat would thereafter circulate a consolidated version of the plan of work for the Council's consideration and approval prior to its presentation to the COM.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Kazakhstan

10. The **Chair** invited comments on the preparations for the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) to be chaired by Kazakhstan in an online format on November 28, 2025. He noted that the Council had already approved the relevant proposal and requested updates from delegations.

11. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** stated that work on the draft communiqué was ongoing and that inputs from Member States were still being incorporated. He informed that invitations from the host authorities were awaited and would be conveyed to the Secretariat upon receipt. He added that a technical coordination meeting between Kazakhstan and the Secretariat had taken place and that Kazakhstan would provide the online links for both the Senior Officials and Council of Ministers Meetings.

12. The Representative of **Pakistan** sought clarification on whether the shift from an in-person to a virtual format would affect the agenda or its sequence, and asked when the annotated agenda would be circulated, noting the limited time left before the meeting.

13. The **Chairman** clarified that no documents were planned for signature. He also informed that invitations, including those concerning the participation of the Secretary General of CICA, were expected shortly and would be circulated once received, subject to the Council's agreement.

14. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized the urgency of issuing the invitations given the short timeline and the need to confirm the level of participation. He recalled that, in accordance with the 299th CPR decision, ECO observers were already cleared for participation. He also sought confirmation regarding the time allocation for observers' statements, which the Chairman clarified as **four minutes.**

15. The Representative of **Pakistan** raised a follow-up question regarding whether the shift to an online format would allow for an ECO-Plus configuration. The **Chairman** clarified that participation would remain limited to Member States, observers and the Secretary General of CICA.

16. The Permanent Representative of **Uzbekistan** asked for guidance on whether delegations should join the virtual meeting from their embassies or from the ECO Secretariat. The **ECO Secretary General** supported the view that delegations may participate from the Secretariat premises, noting the practicality of doing so. The **Chairman** welcomed this suggestion and acknowledged the logistical support to be arranged, with Kazakhstan confirming its readiness to assist.

17. In conclusion, the **Council** took note of the updates provided by Kazakhstan on the preparations for the 29th COM, emphasized the need for the timely circulation of invitations and the annotated agenda, confirmed the participation arrangements for observers and special guests, and agreed that Member States could join the virtual meeting from the Secretariat premises should they wish.

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up of the Outcomes of 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers

- ***Formulation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035***

18. The **Council** reviewed the status of the ongoing formulation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035.

19. The **Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communication and HRSD)** recalled that the 300th CPR Meeting in Zanjan had extended the deadline for Member States to submit inputs on the previously circulated draft until November 15, 2025, which already elapsed. He assured that, in light of the views/comments received, the Secretariat would circulate an updated version of the draft Strategic Goals document.

20. The **Council** also took note of the discussions held at the 2nd PrepCom Meeting, where two options were considered, including: (i) to finalize and adopt the new draft Strategic Goals at the 29th COM as the next ten-year ECO roadmap; and (ii) to extend the validity of the existing ECO Vision 2025 expiring on December 31, 2025, until the new Strategic Goals are finalized.

21. After deliberations, and in view of the emerging consensus among Member States, the **Council** agreed that the deadline for finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035 should be extended until the end of June 2026, or until the finalization of the document, whichever is earlier. The **Council** further agreed that the matter would be included in the agenda of the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, to be held online on November 28, 2025, for consideration and final approval.

- ***Sequencing of the ECO Summit and COM Meetings under one ECO Chairmanship***

22. The **Council** recalled that there was already an in-principle agreement to introduce a two-year ECO Chairmanship, with which the COM and Summit would be sequenced and held under a single-country leadership. The only outstanding issue was the Kyrgyz Republic's objection, conveyed through a Note Verbale, in which it conveyed its preference for maintaining the existing framework.

23. The **Chair** took note of the comment by the Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic, who informed the Council that their new Ambassador would soon arrive in Tehran, providing an opportunity for the Secretary General to engage him directly on the matter. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined the urgency of achieving clarity, stressing that the issue needed to be settled before the upcoming SOM and COM meeting. He stated that Pakistan's deliberations on assuming the next Chairmanship depended on resolving whether it would be for one or two years. He confirmed his readiness to raise the issue at a higher level in Bishkek and pursue it bilaterally to seek flexibility from the Kyrgyz side.

24. The Representative of **Pakistan** emphasized that Islamabad required clear information on the duration of the Chairmanship and the sequencing of COM and Summit meetings before it could formally convey its position to assume ECO Chairmanship in 2026. The Permanent Representative of **Uzbekistan** suggested that all Member States should clearly state their positions. In response, **Türkiye**, **Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Tajikistan** and **Kazakhstan** reaffirmed their support for the two-year Chairmanship, encouraging the Kyrgyz Republic to reconsider its position in light of the broad support expressed.

25. The **ECO Secretary General** noted that hearing all formal positions would assist him in his consultations with Bishkek. He also highlighted that some interim sequencing questions, such as consecutive summits only in 2026 and 2027, could be addressed bilaterally between the countries concerned once the overall framework was agreed. The **Legal Advisor** added that an eventual shift to a two-year Chairmanship would require only amendments to the Rules of Procedure, to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

26. The **Council** concluded that all Member States except the Kyrgyz Republic supported the two-year Chairmanship and requested the Secretariat to make urgent bilateral consultations with the Kyrgyz side with a view to securing consensus, enabling a final decision to be taken by COM on November 28, 2025.

Agenda Item No. 6
Follow-up of the Outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of the ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers

27. The **Chair** recalled that adoption of the Report of the First Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers had remained pending since February this year, inviting delegations to consider the latest version.

28. The Representative of **Türkiye** stated that, while consultations had taken place with Tajikistan, his delegation had not received any new instructions from its capital and therefore continued to uphold the original formulation it had proposed. He emphasized that Türkiye attached high importance to enhancing the efficiency of ECO, particularly with regard to observer-related procedures, and accordingly requested Tajikistan to reconsider Türkiye's proposal in a constructive manner.

29. The **ECO Secretariat** confirmed that a Note Verbale had been received from Türkiye, indicating that it was maintaining its original comments and amendments to the HLC Report.

30. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that only one paragraph was under negotiation between Türkiye and Tajikistan. He explained that the HLC Report bears only a recommendatory nature with no binding effect, and any institutional or procedural changes proposed therein would still require formal approval by the CPR and the COM.

31. The Representative of **Tajikistan** briefed the Council that, in accordance with the mandate of the 300th CPR Meeting in Zanjan, a bilateral consultation had been held on November 2, at the Tajik Embassy with participation from the Secretariat and Türkiye delegates. Both sides exchanged views on the disputed paragraph, and Tajikistan understood that Türkiye would share a revised formulation for review with its capital. However, Tajikistan reported that Türkiye continued supporting the formulation discussed earlier in Zanjan.

32. The Represented of **Türkiye** confirmed that this remained their position, adding that Ankara had instructed it to retain the original text submitted earlier. He emphasized that this proposal, particularly concerning the procedure on observers, was

important for improving ECO's efficiency, reducing unnecessary bureaucratic steps and strengthening decision-making processes. He, therefore, called on Tajikistan to reconsider the proposal constructively so that the HLC Report could be adopted soon.

33. The **Council** noted that consensus on the pending paragraph had not been reached, requesting Türkiye and Tajikistan to continue their bilateral consultations, with the facilitation to be provided by ECO Secretariat, in order to finalize mutually agreeable language. The matter will be resubmitted to the Council for adoption once consensus between the two Member States is achieved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Recommendations to the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade

34. The **Council** took into account the Secretariat's briefing on the recommendations proposed for submission to the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade. These included measures related to rules of origin, removal of technical barriers to trade, ecological harmonization and quality infrastructure, customs cooperation, trade-defense instruments, sectoral research studies, tariff scheduling, intellectual property matters and enhanced private sector and SME engagement. It was noted that, in line with the Council's previous guidance, the Secretariat proposed activating the ECOTA Implementation Fund and recommending to the Ministerial Meeting a strengthened ECOTA implementation plan, focused on increased voluntary financial contributions, capacity-building programs such as "training-of-trainers," technical work under the revised ECOTA roadmap, and quality-infrastructure and trade-facilitation activities aimed at reducing costs and improving cross-border clearance times.

35. During deliberations, **Türkiye side** requested that its technical comments, shared earlier with the Secretariat, be taken into account. **Kazakhstan side** recalled that it was not a signatory to ECOTA and requested that any formulation reflect that recommendations are addressed within the framework of signatory countries. The **Secretariat** acknowledged both inputs and confirmed that they would be incorporated into the report. The **Deputy Secretary General (Trade & Investment)** highlighted that no new mandatory budgetary commitments were being proposed and suggested revised wording calling upon Member States to voluntarily support the ECOTA Implementation Fund, consistent with past practice. **Iranian side** suggested that further technical space be given for the matter to be examined at the forthcoming High-Level Expert Meeting in Istanbul before final recommendations are tabled at the Ministerial Meeting. The **ECO Secretary General** supported this approach, adding that the Secretariat would take the consolidated language to the High-Level Expert Meeting. He also urged Member States to confirm their participation as soon as possible, noting the significance of this Ministerial Meeting being convened after an eleven-year gap. **Kazakhstan side** expressed appreciation to Türkiye for hosting the meeting and underscored the importance of trade within the ECO framework.

36. Foregoing in view, the **Council** agreed that the Secretariat would incorporate the comments of Türkiye and Kazakhstan, and present the consolidated text to the forthcoming High-Level Expert Meeting for further technical consideration. It was further agreed that the recommendations, revised accordingly and clearly limited to ECOTA signatory countries, with no new mandatory financial commitments, would be conveyed to the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade for its

consideration. The Council also urged Member States to confirm their participation in the High-Level Expert Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Agenda Item No. 8
Endorsement of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-30

37. The **Council** considered the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030. The Secretariat highlighted the importance of the minerals sector given the region's significant mineral demand and its role as a key driver of economic growth. In this context, the Secretariat prepared the first comprehensive framework document for regional cooperation in the minerals field. It was recalled that the Secretariat convened an online Task Force Meeting in September, with participation from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The Task Force positively reviewed the draft roadmap and recommended submitting it to ECO decision-making bodies for adoption so that implementation could begin in January 2026. The Secretariat subsequently circulated a revised version for final consideration by Member States.

38. The **Secretariat** noted that ECO currently lacks a structured cooperation platform in the minerals sector, and therefore sought the Council's consent to submit the document to the forthcoming Council of Ministers (COM) for endorsement. **Turkiye's representative** informed that it had transmitted comments from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and requested their reflection in the document. The **Secretariat** confirmed receipt of Türkiye's comments and assured that they would be incorporated into the final draft. No further comments or objections were raised.

39. The **ECO Secretary General** further emphasized the need for active engagement by all Member States, noting that several capitals had yet to provide comments. He underscored that the Secretariat did not favour reliance on silence procedures for adopting substantive framework documents and urged Member States to submit their observations promptly to ensure collective ownership of the roadmap.

40. The **Council** requested the Secretariat to incorporate the comments submitted by Türkiye into the draft ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030, and deferred the matter for consideration at its next session. The Council also took note of the Secretary General's request that Member States which have not yet submitted their comments do so promptly, in order to ensure full ownership of the document and avoid reliance on silence procedures for its approval.

Agenda Item No. 9
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- ***Discussions on ECO Budget for 2026***

41. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** recalled that the Secretariat had initially circulated a first draft of the ECO Budget for 2026, which envisaged an increase of around USD 70,000. While that version was supported by all Member States except Kazakhstan, the Secretariat, in order to accommodate Kazakhstan's observations, revised the proposal and issued a second version. In the updated draft, the increase was reduced to USD 43,851, representing approximately 0.97% over the previous year. He

underlined that no changes were proposed to the salary scale or DSA, and that the limited increase stemmed primarily from: (i) around USD 14,800 to upgrade one Turkmenistan-assigned post from P1 to P3; (ii) USD 10,000 for essential publication of ECO transport maps; and (iii) USD 30,000 for the Special Support Fund to cover air tickets of Member State participants. He clarified that these three items exceed the net increase and largely return to the Member States themselves. He further noted that the Secretariat has temporarily relied on the General Reserve Fund (GRF) to meet obligations such as home leave and end-of-service benefits, but emphasized that these liabilities will ultimately need to be paid and therefore the GRF cannot sustainably replace regular budget resources. He also briefed the Council on two staff-related proposals: (a) authorizing the Secretary General to upgrade up to two Category A staff members by one grade as an incentive measure; and (b) converting three long-serving temporary guards into permanent caretaker/guard posts in Category-III, A1, in line with auditors' observations, with no net increase in the 2026 budget.

41. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized that approving the budget is not only a procedural step but also a strategic decision. He recalled that Kazakhstan had expressed a preference to keep the budget at the previous year's level, but underlined that the Secretariat had already reduced its initial proposal from a 1.5% increase to less than 1% (around 0.97%), without seeking any salary or DSA increases despite inflation. He noted that 96-97% of expenditures are administrative, effectively returning to Member States via salaries and service costs, and that the Secretariat has delivered a full programme of meetings with high-level participation and no postponements due to lack of quorum. He noted that freezing the nominal budget year after year amounts to a real cut once inflation is considered and cautioned against systematically using the GRF as an operating fund, as this could eventually bring the Organization to a standstill. On staffing, he recalled that Category-III staff had previously faced a 30% salary cut and argued that regularizing the three guard posts and allowing limited grade advancement for deserving A-category staff were necessary for fairness and motivation. He invited all Member States, particularly Kazakhstan, to reconsider the proposal in this light, reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to frugality and transparency and welcomed scrutiny of ECO's expenditures.

42. The **Chairman** invited comments on the 2026 budget and, noting that only Kazakhstan had expressed reservations, asked for an update on 2025 contributions and on how the Secretariat was financing its operations when several contributions remained pending. He stressed that contributions are critical for ECO's functioning and questioned the logic of increasing the budget while relying on the GRF. He also sought clarification on whether transforming three guard positions into Category A3 posts would create new permanent posts and increase future costs. Later, in his national capacity, he recalled that Kazakhstan's general position is not to increase the ECO budget. He indicated that Kazakhstan would pursue bilateral consultations with the Secretary General on the budget matter.

43. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** reported that for the year 2025, contributions from Iran, Pakistan, Türkiye and Turkmenistan had not yet been received, though the year was not yet concluded and the Secretariat expected those payments. He noted that some countries had faced technical difficulties transferring funds through the host-country financial system but expressed confidence that the outstanding contributions would arrive.

44. The Representative of **Türkiye** confirmed that Türkiye's 2025 contribution is about to be transferred to the Secretariat. The Representative of **Iran** stated that Iran's situation was well known, noting that the funds for ECO had already been allocated and that, once central bank procedures were completed, the contribution for 2025 would be delivered to the Secretariat. The Representative of **Pakistan** confirmed that payment of their contribution was in the process and that this would be transmitted to the Secretariat in the near future.

45. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD),** responding to a query, noted that Turkmenistan typically pays its contribution at the beginning of the following year, for example in January, consistent with usual practice.

46. On the staff structure, the **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** clarified that the three guard posts have existed for about three years on temporary contracts and are already fully budgeted; the proposal merely converts them into regular caretaker/guard posts with social security coverage, without creating new positions. On the authorization to upgrade two Category A staff, the **Secretary General** explained that this would not increase the number of posts, but would allow limited progression for long-serving, high-performing staff who have reached their grade ceiling, with each case to be justified and brought to the Council for approval.

47. The **Chair** observed that, while Kazakhstan maintained its reservation regarding the proposed increase in the 2026 budget, all other Member States expressed their support for the draft budget and the related staffing proposals. He noted that Kazakhstan and the Secretary General would therefore continue bilateral consultations to address the outstanding concern.

48. **On** the ECO Budget 2026 and staff-related proposals, the **Council** took note of the Secretariat's explanations and of the broad support expressed by all delegations except Kazakhstan for the proposed less-than-1% budget increase, as well as for the regularization of three caretaker/guard posts and the limited authorization to upgrade up to two Category A staff without additional budgetary impact. The Council also took note of Kazakhstan's general position against increasing the budget and its concerns regarding recurrent budget growth and the use of the General Reserve Fund. It was noted that the Secretary General and Kazakhstan side would continue their bilateral consultations with a view to addressing the outstanding concerns.

- ***Transfer and reallocation of funds between different Chapters of the ECO budget for 2025 without increasing the size of total budget***

49. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** briefed the Council on an internal budgetary adjustment: in line with Article 9.2 of the Financial Regulations, the Secretary General may transfer funds between budget chapters up to 10% of the receiving head; however, to address an estimated deficit of USD 3,500 in the Transport chapter, the Secretariat requested the Council's approval to transfer USD 3,500 from the ECO Award chapter to the Transport chapter, without changing the total approved budget envelope.

50. The **Council** approved the Secretariat's request to transfer USD 3,500 from the ECO Award chapter to the Transport chapter in order to cover the identified deficit, noting that this adjustment does not alter the overall budget ceiling for the year.

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

51. The Council approved the recommendations of the Selection Panel for appointment of **Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari** (Iranian national) as Director for Transport and Communications (Category-I, D-2), **Mr. Ilkhomjon Abdraimov** (Uzbek national) as Director for Tourism (Category-I, D-2), **Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim** (Tajik national) as Head of Section for Coordination (Category-I, D1) and Follow-up, and **Ms. Sameeah Alvi** (Pakistani national) as Head of Section for International Relations (D-1).

52. The Council congratulated all selected candidates and expressed confidence that their expertise will contribute effectively to strengthening the work of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 10
Any Other Business

53. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran had invited the Secretary General to participate in the Conference of Governors of the Caspian Sea Coastal Provinces, scheduled for November 18-19, 2025. In this regard, the Secretariat proposed that DSG Ambassador Jandos Asanov be authorized to represent the ECO Secretariat at the event, accompanied by Mr. Hamid Falah (), for the three-day programme.

54. The **Council** considered the proposal and approved the authorization of DSG Ambassador Jandos Asanov to attend the Conference on behalf of the ECO Secretariat, accompanied by Mr. Hamid Falah Driver.

55. The Representative of **Iran** informed that Iran would host two forthcoming ECO events: (i) the 7th Meeting of the Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations on December 8-9, 2025, and (ii) the 8th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture on February 16-17, 2026. He noted that invitations had already been issued to all Member States except Afghanistan and clarified that, in accordance with ECO rules and procedures, Iran would also extend invitations to Afghanistan for both events. Emphasizing the importance of broad and high-level participation, he requested Member States to communicate their respective delegations at the earliest opportunity.

56. The **Council** welcomed and supported Iran’s initiative requested the Member States to ensure their highest level participation and both the events.

57. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled the earlier CPR decision that any member state wishing to invite Afghanistan to ECO activities may do so bilaterally, and that modalities of participation would likewise be settled bilaterally. He informed the Council that he would be meeting the Ambassador of Afghanistan in Tehran and would subsequently brief the Council on the question of Afghanistan’s participation in CPR proceedings.

58. The **ECO Secretary General** also briefed the Council on his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, undertaken primarily for consultations with the Islamic Development Bank. He reported meetings with the Vice Presidents for Finance and Operations, the CEO of IDFC and the Bank's technical team, all of whom expressed readiness to revive cooperation under the ECO-IsDB MOU of 1993 and to conduct an assessment of past collaboration. He added that coordination had begun with Azerbaijan to organize the ECO Finance Minister's Meeting on the margins of the next IsDB Board Session in Baku. He also informed about his meetings with the representatives of OIC, GCC, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Digital Cooperation Organization, noting an overall willingness to expand engagement with ECO, including selective participation in relevant sectoral meetings. He highlighted Saudi interest in enhanced connectivity with ECO countries, and also noted DCO's ongoing digital readiness assessments for several ECO members.

59. The **Council** appreciated the Secretary General's detailed briefing and welcomed the positive signals from Saudi Arabia and other regional institutions. Delegations supported the idea of preparing concrete, finance-ready project proposals for submission to Saudi and GCC partners and expressed the view that ECO should capitalize on the renewed interest to strengthen cooperation. The suggestion to invite senior Saudi officials, including the Agriculture Minister, as special guests to forthcoming ECO ministerial meetings was also welcomed.

60. The **Council** expressed its deep appreciation for **Ambassador Dr. Alavi** for his longstanding, constructive, and creative contributions to CPR deliberations. Delegations noted his extensive diplomatic experience and described his transfer from CPR to the Secretariat as a valuable strengthening of ECO capacity. Delegates referred to his balanced and compromising approach and emphasized that his joining the Secretariat reflects Iran's commitment to the advancement of ECO.

61. The **Council** also conveyed warm appreciation to the outgoing Head of Section for Coordination and Follow-up, **Mr. Sukhrob Mirzayev**, on the completion of his tenure. Delegations commended his professionalism, procedural expertise and consistent support to CPR work, expressing the expectation that he would continue to excel in senior diplomatic assignments in the future.

62. The **Council** further acknowledged the contributions of the outgoing Desk Officer**, Mr. Shahid Hussain**, noting his legal background and high professional standards. Delegations thanked him for his dedicated service to the Secretariat and conveyed their best wishes for his forthcoming responsibilities.

63. The **Council** additionally extended appreciation to **Mr. Nazim Beishekeev**, Attaché at the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic, whose final departure from Tehran was learned during the meeting. Delegations valued his professionalism, positive engagement and cordial working style, and wished him success in his future postings at home.

64. The **Council** collectively conveyed its gratitude and good wishes to all outgoing members of staff who successfully completed their tenures, noting their valuable

contributions to ECO processes and expressing hopes for their continued success in future endeavors.

Agenda Item No. 11
Date of the Next CPR Meeting

65. The Council agreed to hold its next (302nd) Session on December 17, 2025 (10:00 a.m) at the ECO Secretariat.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:
- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:
- H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:
- Mr. Ermek Eraliev, Charge d' Affaires
- Mr. Nazim Beishekeev, Attache

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:
- Mr. Bahodur Nazir, Counsellor
- Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkiye:
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmed Bicer, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:
- H.E. Mr. Ilyas Gayypov, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Batyr Charmanov, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
- H.E. Mr. Fariddin Nasriev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:
- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Sukhrob Mirzoaliev, Head of CFU
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Shahid Hussain, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/87

Priority: Urgent
Date: 1/2/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, has the honour to enclose herewith the Report of 302nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on December 17, 2025, and adopted by the 303rd CPR Meeting held on January 27, 2026.

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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302nd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Report

December 17, 2025
ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Draft Report

Held on December 17, 2025 under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, the 302nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

2. The **Council** opened its proceedings by extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed ECO Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kylychev of the Kyrgyz Republic. Delegations welcomed them, noting their extensive diplomatic experience and expressing confidence that their expertise would contribute positively to the work of the Organization.

3. In response, the newly appointed **Permanent Representatives** expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair, the ECO Secretary General, and the other distinguished members of the Council for the warm welcome. They reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with the Council and the Secretariat and pledged their full support to advancing the objectives and activities of ECO in coordination with their respective governments.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

4. The **ECO Secretary General** requested the Council to include, as a separate agenda item, the issue concerning preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC). Based on the proposal of the ECO Secretary General, the following agenda was adopted by the Council:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 302nd CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Follow-up of the outcomes of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held online on November 28, 2025;
- Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
  - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting

5. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting held on November 17, 2025, and circulated vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1803 dated November 20, 2025.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

6. The **Council** reviewed the status of the matter in light of Azerbaijan's request to extend the deadline for submitting additional proposals and Türkiye's request to have its fresh inputs duly reflected in the Summit's Follow-up Plan of Work.

7. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA)** clarified that, pursuant to the 301st CPR decision, it had circulated a Note Verbale on November 24, 2025, notifying member states of the finalization of the Plan of Work. However, Azerbaijan's Note Verbale was received only after that circulation. Moreover, it was underlined that the comments received from member countries after this circulation were also incorporated in the document and a revised version was duly circulated too, with the assurance that any fresh comments received will also be included in the document and circulated afresh.

8. Given the views expressed and in light of the ongoing consideration by member states, the **Council** concluded that there should be a deadline to finalize the process. In this regard, the **Council** urged the member states to convey their final inputs by or before next CPR meeting, and tasked the ECO Secretariat to incorporate all the comments received from member states within this timeframe. The **Council** further agreed that no additional comments would be considered for inclusion in the Plan of Work if received after the set deadline.

Agenda Item No. 4
Follow-up of the outcomes of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held online on November 28, 2025

9. The **Chair** informed the Council that, it was initially agreed that a Chair's Summary of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers would be prepared by Kazakhstan, a review of past practice indicated that such summaries are generally issued for Summit meetings, which do not adopt formal reports. In contrast, he added, the COM meetings adopt official reports, and the key elements normally reflected in a Chair's Summary are already fully captured in the adopted COM Report. Accordingly, the Chair noted that preparing a separate Chair's Summary for the 29th COM would not add substantive value, as it would largely duplicate the contents of the approved report.

10. The **Council** took note of the Chair's explanation, and agreed that follow-up actions on the outcomes of the Meeting would be guided by the adopted COM Report, and that the ECO Secretariat would proceed accordingly.

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers

11. The **Council** considered the follow-up of the outcomes of the first meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers, noting that the HLC Draft Report had remained pending since February 2025 due to the absence of consensus on one paragraph. It was recalled that, at its 301st CPR Meeting, the Council had requested Türkiye and Tajikistan to continue bilateral consultations, with facilitation by the ECO Secretariat, with a view to finalizing mutually agreeable language by the 302nd CPR meeting.

12. During the discussion, the Representative of **Türkiye** reiterated the importance it attached to its original proposal, including reference to permanent observer status. The Representative of **Tajikistan** indicated its readiness to support a consensus-based outcome and expressed willingness to go along with an agreed formulation in order to move forward. The **ECO Secretary General** and the **Legal Advisor** clarified that, under the HLC Terms of Reference, the conclusions are recommendatory in nature and require consensus, and encouraged finalization of the report at the earliest possibility. However, the Representative of **Uzbekistan** requested additional time for consultation and asked for re-circulation of the HLC's Draft Report.

13. Based on the understanding reached between Türkiye and Tajikistan and the consensus amongst member states concerning the original proposal on ECO Observers added by Türkiye in the Draft HLC Report, the **Council**, in principle, agreed on the adoption of the HLC Draft Report. However, in light of the views expressed by Uzbekistan, the **Council** agreed that the Draft Report would be formally adopted at its next meeting, tasking the Secretariat to re-circulate the Draft Report, with Türkiye's original proposal on ECO Observers, for final consideration by member states.

Agenda Item No. 6
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

14. The **ECO Secretariat** briefed the Council on the procedural requirements governing the RPC, noting that, under the Rules of Procedure, the RPC is required to convene at least once a year. In this context, the Secretariat proposed initiating the preparatory process for the 36th RPC meeting in 2026 and initially suggested early April 2026 as possible dates, taking into account the need to circulate the draft agenda and working documents in advance.

15. During the discussion, the delegations emphasized the importance of holding the RPC meeting as early as possible, given its role in shaping the annual calendar of ECO activities. The Representative of **Türkiye** indicated scheduling constraints in April due to their overlapping international commitments and proposed alternative dates in May, while the Permanent Representative of **Iran** and some other delegations underlined the preference for an early meeting, including consideration of February, subject to collective convenience. The **ECO Secretariat** further explained the practical constraints related to Ramadan and Nowruz, which affected the availability of suitable dates in February and March.

16. After considering the views expressed and given the scheduling constraints, the **Council** agreed to convene the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council on May 17–20, 2026. The **Council** also approved the initiation of the preparatory process and tasked the ECO Secretariat to proceed with the necessary arrangements, including circulation of the draft agenda and relevant working documents to member states in a timely manner.

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and budgetary matters:

Proposal on Category-III Staff

17. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** outlined the background of the Secretariat's proposals on Category-III staff, including the authorization to the ECO Secretary General to upgrade two staff positions to A-4 and A-5, based on merit, as well as the conversion of three long-standing temporary guard positions into permanent posts. It was recalled that the matter had been examined by working group, discussed at previous CPR meetings, clarifying that the proposals would not entail any additional financial burden, as it could be accommodated within the approved budget for 2026. The Secretariat proposed to adopt a silence procedure for securing COM's approval in this regard.

18. The **Chair**, representing Kazakhstan, raised some queries regarding the advisability of initiating a silence procedure in light of Kazakhstan's earlier reservation and requested that the decision be held until the next CPR meeting. The **ECO Secretariat** provided further clarifications on the rationale, audit considerations, staff motivation and the budget-neutral nature of the proposals. Following these explanations, the **Chair** invited each delegation to state its position, and all delegations present expressed their readiness to proceed on the basis of consensus, subject to Kazakhstan reverting with its final position.

19. The **Council** took note of the explanations provided by the ECO Secretariat and the views expressed by member states. While noting the general consensus among delegations, the **Council** agreed, at the request of the Chair, to defer a final decision on the proposal until its next meeting, by which time Kazakhstan would revert with its final position, with a view to concluding the matter by consensus.

Agenda Item No. 7
Any other business

- ***Two-Year ECO Chairmanship***

20. The **Council** was informed by the **ECO Secretary General** that Pakistan had agreed to assume the ECO Chairmanship for a two-year period, in line with the proposed reform to consolidate the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers and the Summit under a single country. The Representative of **Pakistan** confirmed its acceptance of the two-year chairmanship and expressed readiness to contribute to improved sequencing of COM and Summit meetings under this arrangement. He further noted that consultations would be held with the Islamic Republic of Iran

regarding the sequencing of the upcoming 18th ECO Summit, taking into account Iran's earlier announcement at the 17th Summit in Khankendi. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** concurred and confirmed readiness to engage in consultations with Pakistan and to inform the Council of the outcome in due course.

- ***ECO Economic Journal***

21. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA)** briefed the Council on the status of the ECO Economic Journal, based in Baku under the Institute of Economic Research of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It was recalled that the Journal was launched in 2010, experienced a temporary pause, and resumed publication in 2022, with its ninth and tenth editions published in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The Secretariat further informed the Council that, since 2023, a project entitled "Transformation of the ECO Economic Journal" has been under implementation pursuant to the decision of the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers. The total required budget for the project amounts to USD 50,000, of which USD 30,000 has already been mobilized, including USD 20,000 from the ECO Trade and Development Bank and USD 10,000 from the ECO Secretariat. It was further explained that the allocated funds cover, inter alia, honoraria for contributing authors and publication-related expenses, and that the Journal has increasingly shifted towards an electronic format through its dedicated website. In view of a renewed request from the host institution to continue implementation of the approved project, he proposed the allocation of an additional USD 5,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

22. The **Chair** sought clarification on the appropriateness of financing the ECO Economic Journal from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund, noting that the Fund is primarily intended to support feasibility studies and projects, and requested confirmation on whether continued financial support to the Journal was consistent with established rules and past practice.

23. In response, the **Legal Advisor** clarified that, in line with established practice, the Council may consider support to the ECO Economic Journal as a project eligible for funding under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

24. The **ECO Secretary General** further clarified that the requested allocation constituted a continuation of an already approved project, implemented through contractual arrangements and subject to applicable financial rules and procedures. It was also noted that the present request was intended as one of the final tranches of support, with the expectation that, once fully operationalized, the Journal would become self-sustaining and no longer require regular financial support from the ECO Secretariat.

25. The **Council** took note of the information and clarifications provided by the ECO Secretariat. In the absence of any objection, the Council agreed to approve the allocation of USD 5,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund to support the ECO Economic Journal, in continuation of established practice.

- ***Ministerial Meeting on DRR***
- ***Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture***

26. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** briefed the Council on the preparations for the 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), to be preceded by a High-Level Working Group meeting dedicated to updating the Regional Framework on DRR, scheduled to take place on January 21–22, 2026 in Islamabad. He informed that the meetings would be hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, with hospitality to be extended on a 1+2 format, including accommodation, meals and local transportation. Member states were requested to confirm participation at the earliest and ensure high-level representation. He further informed the Council that invitations were planned to be extended to relevant observers and selected international organizations, including UNDRR, UNICEF, APDIM, JICA, Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience under the auspices of the UNESCO, and the ECO-affiliated Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters, and that all related documentation had already been circulated by the ECO Secretariat.

27. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized the importance of the DRR meetings as the first major activity of the New Year and encouraged all member states to ensure active and high-level participation. He further noted that a High-Level Working Group meeting would be held one day prior to the Ministerial Meeting and sought the Council's approval for the ECO Secretariat to cover the travel expenses of one expert per member state from SSF, in accordance with established rules and past practice.

28. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** informed the Council that an ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture would be held on February 17–18, 2026 in Tehran. He noted that the host ministry was considering inviting ECO Observers, selected international organizations and countries from the region to attend the meeting and that, once finalized, the details would be conveyed to the ECO Secretariat for circulation in accordance with established procedures.

29. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of the Meeting, highlighting growing interest among member states in cooperation on food security, seed development and modern irrigation practices, and encouraged all delegations to sensitize their capitals and ensure high-level participation.

30. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & AI)** further informed the Council that a High-Level Expert Group Meeting would precede the Ministerial Meeting and that the ECO Secretariat would fund one delegation per member state for participation in the expert meeting from SSF, in line with established practice, in order to help secure quorum. He also requested the early submission of the agenda, annotated agenda and work plan by the host authorities and encouraged member states to participate actively and at the highest possible level in both meetings.

31. The **Council** approved the proposals of the ECO Secretariat concerning the Ministerial Meetings on Disaster Risk Reduction and Agriculture, including the provision of airfare for one expert-level delegate from each member state, separately for

the preparatory meetings of both Ministerials. It further endorsed extending invitations to ECO Observers for participation in the Ministerial Meeting on DRR.

- ***ECO CCI Events***

32. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & AI)** informed the Council that, due to lack of quorum, meetings of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI), including its Executive Committee and General Assembly, could not be held during 2023–2025. He informed that, according to a recent communication from the ECO-CCI Presidency (Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry), the 30th Executive Committee Meeting and the 20th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI are scheduled to be held on January 22, 2026. He encouraged member states to reach out to their respective national chambers of commerce and industry to ensure participation, underlining the importance of private sector engagement. He further noted that, although the meeting has been part of the ECO calendar in previous years, the Secretariat sought the Council's concurrence for participation, given that the calendar of events for 2026 is yet to be finalized.

33. The **ECO Secretary General** welcomed the convening of the ECO-CCI meetings, recalling the strong emphasis placed by Trade Ministers on private sector engagement during the recent ECO Trade Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul. He urged member states to actively encourage their national chambers to participate and noted that the Secretariat would be represented at the meeting, subject to scheduling constraints with the DRR Ministerial Meeting. He requested the Council's in-principle approval for the Secretariat's participation.

34. In light of the foregoing explanations, the **Council** endorsed the Secretariat's participation in the ECO-CCI meetings. It further endorsed extending invitations to ECO Observers for participation in the ECO-CCI meetings.

35. The Representative of **Türkiye** noted that, except for the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, for which the Islamic Republic of Iran would revert with its position regarding the participation of ECO observers, there were no objections among member states to the participation of ECO observers in the forthcoming meetings, including Disaster Risk Reduction and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

- ***ECO SG's Visit to Ashgabad***

36. The **ECO Secretary General** briefed the Council on his recent visit to Ashgabat to attend the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Neutrality Conference and the Year of Peace and Trust, noting that the visit provided an opportunity for high-level interactions with the leadership of several ECO member states. He highlighted productive exchanges with the national leadership of Turkmenistan, including discussions on ECO activities and Turkmenistan's strong interest in enhanced cooperation on energy issues, particularly regional electricity networks.

- ***Ministerial Meeting on Energy***

37. The **ECO Secretary General** further informed the Council that Türkiye had conveyed its readiness to host the next ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting and

emphasized the importance of timely notification by member states, preferably three to four months in advance, for the organization of ministerial meetings, in order to allow adequate preparation and coordination for meetings planned during the first half of 2026.

- ***Afghanistan's participation in CPR***

38. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that the issue of Afghanistan's participation in CPR remains under consideration, pending receipt of responses from the Afghan side, which would be shared with member states for further guidance by the Council.

39. In addition, the **ECO Secretary General** noted that this was the last CPR meeting to be chaired by Kazakhstan, with the formal handover of the Chairmanship to Pakistan to take place at the next meeting. He expressed appreciation for Kazakhstan's active and effective stewardship of the Organization and conveyed the Secretariat's gratitude, which would be formally reiterated during the handover ceremony at next CPR meeting in January 2026.

Agenda Item No. 8
Date of the next CPR Meeting

40. The **Council** decided to hold its next (303rd) Session on January 27, 2026. The Council tasked the Secretariat to finalize and circulate the program of the next CPR Meeting in consultation with the Islamic Republic of Iran that offered to host the event outside Tehran.

*****

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:
- H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Ms. Nasrin Esmaeili, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:
- H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kylychev, **Permanent Representative**

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:
- Mr. Bahodur Nazir, Counsellor
- Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmed Bicer, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:
- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:
- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Naimatullah Almani, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/206

Priority: Normal
Date: 28/2/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose herewith the **Report of 303th Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meeting** adopted by the 304th CPR Meeting held on February 25, 2026.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of 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

303rd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

January 27, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Report

Held on January 27, 2026 under the Chairmanship of Pakistan, the 303rd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

2. The Meeting began with Pakistan, taking over the ECO Chairmanship for 2026-2027 from Kazakhstan – the ECO Chair in 2025. In his remarks, the outgoing Chair, **Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev** thanked all delegations for their cooperation and support during Kazakhstan's chairmanship. He noted that, during his chairmanship, the Council's work had focused on strengthening coordination, advancing agreed priorities, facilitating trade and investment, supporting social development, and promoting people-to-people contacts. While acknowledging that further efforts were required, he emphasized that the CPR had remained an effective platform for practical cooperation. He congratulated Ambassador Muhammad Mudassir Tipu of Pakistan on assuming the CPR chairmanship for two years, and expressed confidence in Pakistan's continued commitment to ECO.

3. The incoming Chair, **Ambassador Mudassir Tipu** said that Pakistan, as a founding member of ECO, had remained committed to the Organization's objectives and principles since its inception. He underlined the importance of strengthening regional cooperation in the current global context and expressed confidence that, under the guidance of the Secretary General, ECO would continue to advance its goals. He thanked member states for their trust and formally assumed the chairmanship of the Council.

4. The ECO Secretary General, **Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan**, welcomed all delegations and thanked Kazakhstan for its effective leadership during 2025, noting the successful convening of several ministerial meetings and the 17th ECO Summit. He congratulated Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship under the newly approved two-year term and expressed confidence in Pakistan's leadership. He briefed the Council on the busy schedule of ministerial meetings planned in 2026 across various sectors and urged member states to confirm dates well in advance to ensure effective participation and preparation, making the year pathbreaking for ECO. He emphasized the importance of close coordination between capitals, embassies and the Secretariat. He also acknowledged improved financial contributions by member states, encouraged timely payments and reaffirmed the Secretariat's full support to the Chair.

5. The other distinguished Permanent Representatives and delegates also congratulated Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship of the Organization for 2026–2027 and expressed confidence in its leadership. They commended Kazakhstan for its successful chairmanship in 2025 and welcomed the progress achieved by ECO. Delegations assured their full cooperation and support for the work of the Council and the Secretariat during the new chairmanship period, with a view to further strengthening regional economic cooperation.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

6. The **Council** adopted the following agenda for discussion and deliberations:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting

7. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting held on December 17, 2025, and circulated amongst the Member States vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1959 dated December 18, 2025.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

8. The **Chairman** recalled that the 302nd CPR Meeting reviewed the status of the Plan of Work on the follow-up of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan, and extended the deadline for submission of final inputs until the current CPR session. He requested the Secretariat to brief the Council on the matter.

9. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev** stated that the updated version of the said action plan was circulated amongst the member states on December 22, 2025 incorporating therein the last inputs received from Türkiye. He added that no further comments were received thereafter from any other member state, requesting the Council to finalize the Action Plan so that necessary follow-up actions may be initiated.

10. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Ambassador Ali Alizada** while appreciating the Secretariat for the patience and vigorous work to finalize the action plan, requested that given the current situation, the matter may be deferred for another month, or until the next CPR Meeting, enabling them to convey their feedback.

11. The Representative of the Republic of Türkiye, **Mr. Murat Sogangoz** informed about their additional comments on the Plan of Action which were conveyed to the Secretariat vide Note Verbale on January 26, 2027. He requested to reflect the same in the revised version of the document.

12. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan, **Ambassador Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda** while noting certain issues pending on the agenda for

several months, emphasized the importance of expeditious decision-making. He supported the request made by his Azerbaijani counterpart for one more month's extension in the deadline to receive any additional comments on the action plan.

13. The Permanent Reprehensive of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Alireza Toutounchian** pointed out some inconsistency in the action plan stating that country names were mentioned in some sectors against the leaders' proposal whereas the other they appear missing in other areas. He requested to apply uniformity in approach while formulating the document, and stressed that the focus should be made on specific proposals put forward by the distinguished Heads of State/Government.

14. While taking note of the status of action plan and the positions of the member states, the **Council** agreed to defer the matter till the next meeting of CPR. The **Council** also urged the member states to speed up their feedback in order to avoid further delay in finalizing the document.

Agenda Item No. 4
Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers

15. The **Chairman** recalled that based on the consensus regarding Türkiye's original proposal on ECO Observers in the Draft HLC Report, the 302nd CPR Meeting agreed, in principle, to finalize the Draft Report. He, however, noted that in light of the request made by Uzbekistan, the CPR, tasked the Secretariat to re-circulate the HLC Draft Report, and concluded that it would be formally agreed by its current session. He requested the Council to consider and finalize the HLC report.

16. The Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **Mr. Elbek Yuldashev** while agreeing with the consensus on HLC Report, requested that the right to extend or not to extend invitations to ECO Observers in the events/meetings should remain with the concerned member states.

17. The **ECO Secretary General**, while congratulating the member states to finally reach a consensus on the HLC Report, reiterated his previously uttered position that the HLC report is merely of recommendatory nature. He added that the recommendations made therein would remain subject to finalization by CPR and the COM for being transformed into formal decisions. He requested the Council to establish a working group, as envisaged in the HLC Report, tasking it to initiate developing concrete proposals in line with the HLC recommendations.

18. Having consent expressed by all member states, the **Council** finalized the Draft Report of the First HLC Meeting held on February 3, 2025, and also agreed to establish the envisaged working group, requesting the Secretariat to take further necessary action, in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 5
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

19. The **Chairman** noted that, as per decision of the previous CPR, the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) is scheduled to be held on May 17-20, 2026. He requested the Secretariat to update the Council with regard to RPC preparations.

20. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** explained that as per agreement reached during the 302nd CPR meeting, the Secretariat prepared and circulated a list of events, occurring between January and May 2026. He mentioned that the provided list was required to be endorsed by the Council in order to ensure smooth organization of the important meetings which would take place before RPC Meeting. He added that, after the RPC Meeting, the final version of the ECO Calendar of Events and Work Program for 2026 will be submitted for endorsement by the CPR and onward submission to COM for adoption.

21. The Representative of the **Republic of Türkiye** informed that the response from their Capital was yet to be received on the said list of events. Delegations, particularly from Iran, highlighted the possibility of expanding the tentative list by adding some more events to the list which are expected from the line ministries in due course.

22. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that every effort was made to convene the RPC meeting in the first quarter of the year, given its mandate to finalize the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events. However, due to inconvenience expressed by some member states, the meeting was postponed and scheduled for mid-year. He requested the member states to inform of any meetings that they plan before the RPC meeting, so that those could also be circulated for the Council's approval. He also sought the Council's approval for meetings requiring authorization before the next CPR session, in particular the ICT Ministerial Meeting to be held in Islamabad on March 30–31, 2026.

23. The **Council**, while noting the views of the delegations and given the importance of the matter, endorsed the list of events and decided to adopt a two-week silence procedure to seek the COM's approval on this list, occurring during this interim period i.e. between January and May 2026. The Council also agreed to make expansion, if any, in the list on receipt of events' detail from member states.

Agenda Item No. 6
Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region

24. The **Chair** invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on its proposal regarding implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO region.

25. The **Deputy Secretary General (Transport & HRSD)** briefed the Council on the Awaza Programme of Action, recalling that the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Awaza, Turkmenistan, from August 5-8, 2025. He noted that the Programme builds on the Vienna Programme of Action and aims to accelerate progress in trade facilitation, transport connectivity, structural transformation, technology, climate resilience and international support, by aligning national, regional and global

efforts. He highlighted that seven landlocked developing countries are located in the ECO region and recalled that an ECO-exclusive high-level meeting was held on the margins of the Awaza Conference to discuss regional implementation of the Programme for 2024–2034. He emphasized that the Programme calls for active involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations in its implementation, follow-up and monitoring. He informed that the Secretariat had prepared proposals in this regard and invited the Director for Transport to present them.

26. In his presentation, the Director (Transport), **Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari** briefed the Council on the Awaza Programme of Action, noting that it was a major recent global initiative relevant to ECO region, alongside COP29, and that ECO had a clear role in its implementation. He recalled that seven ECO member states are landlocked developing countries and sought the Council's guidance on how ECO should address this agenda at the regional level. He explained that the Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034), building on the Vienna Programme of Action, aims to address vulnerabilities arising from remoteness and geographical constraints through five priority areas: structural transformation; trade and trade facilitation; transit, transport and connectivity; climate resilience; and means of implementation.

27. Focusing on priority area three, the **Director (Transport)** highlighted the importance of transit, transport and connectivity, including physical and digital connectivity, to improve landlocked countries' access to global markets. He noted that the Programme calls for enhanced transit infrastructure, multimodal transport systems, harmonized infrastructure standards and border crossing procedures, investment and financing mechanisms, due attention to air transport and international support in line with the principle of freedom of transit. He also emphasized digital connectivity, including expanded access to internet infrastructure such as submarine cables, increased investment in digital infrastructure and support for digital transformation through ICT and emerging technologies.

28. The **Director (Transport)** underscored that the Programme assigns a specific role to regional organizations, including ECO, particularly in regional reviews and in mainstreaming the Programme into national, regional and global policy frameworks, with regional mechanisms complementing national and global efforts. From an ECO perspective, he recalled that the challenges of landlocked member states had already been recognized in the ECO Vision 2025 and the 2025 Tehran Declaration on Transport. He outlined the proposed actions, including assisting landlocked member states with national reviews, preparing regional inputs for global review processes, mainstreaming relevant provisions of the Programme into ECO strategies and sectoral activities, and strengthening cooperation with UN entities, regional commissions, development partners and donors. He identified opportunities in 2026 to advance implementation, including ECO sectoral ministerial meetings, a possible financing conference for ECO transport projects, and a regional kick-off meeting on implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO region. He also informed the Council that a dedicated webpage on the Awaza Programme of Action had been established on the ECO website and invited member states to contribute relevant information.

29. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of the Awaza Programme of Action for ECO member states. He stated that the Secretariat would work closely with

member states on the recommendations and proposals presented, and suggested that the Council take note of the presentation as a blueprint for ECO's work on implementing the Awaza Programme of Action. He further emphasized the need to institutionalize private sector engagement in ECO processes, particularly in ministerial meetings, including transport ministerial meetings, by ensuring the participation of both financiers and private sector representatives.

30. The Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan, **H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov** expressed Turkmenistan's full support for the proposals presented. He recalled that Turkmenistan's proposals, particularly under priority area three on transport and transit connectivity, had been reflected in the Awaza Programme of Action. He reaffirmed Turkmenistan's readiness to cooperate actively with ECO member states in the implementation of the Programme.

31. The **Chair** commended the Director (Transport) for the informative presentation and hoped that it would assist landlocked member states in making better-informed decisions. He underlined the importance of land and maritime connectivity for the ECO region and welcomed Iran's proposal regarding Chabahar Port in the context of the Awaza Programme of Action. In this regard, he proposed the inclusion of Gwadar Port, noting its deep-sea capacity, strategic location and proximity to Chabahar, which could create complementarities in support of the Programme's objectives.

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and budgetary Matters:

- ***Extension of Term of Service in respect of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian/English Interpreter***

- ***Extension of Term of Service in respect of Ms. Saida Armina, Russian/English Interpreter***

32. The Council considered and approved the following based on the requests received from Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, vide Note Verbale No. 5-001/26 dated January 6, 2026, and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan vide Note Verbale No. 30/33 dated January 21, 2026:

a. Extension of service in respect of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) for a full 4-year term.

b. Extension of service in respect of Ms. Armina, Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) until arrival of her successor.

33. The Secretary General made a general observation regarding the appointments and extensions of personnel. He noted that, while the initial appointment of staff is a matter for the sending state, it would be important, based on the Staff Regulations and as a principle, for the Secretariat to be formally consulted when extensions are under consideration, particularly with regard to performance evaluation. He explained that the Secretariat conducts internal performance assessments of its staff; however, these evaluations are not formally shared with member states. He, therefore, suggested that, when considering extensions, member states may like to consult the Secretariat, to secure assessment of

individuals' performance based on their service. He further noted that across-the-board extensions for full terms should also be considered in the context of efficiency and discipline within the Secretariat. He invited the Council to reflect on the merit of observation, with a view to possibly adopting a formal decision at an appropriate time, emphasizing that such an approach would serve the overall efficiency of the Secretariat.

- ***Proposal on Category-III Staff***

34. The Deputy Secretary General (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut** recalled that the Secretariat had submitted a proposal concerning Category-III staff, including the upgrading of two positions based on merit and the conversion of three long-standing temporary guard positions into permanent posts. He noted that the proposal could be accommodated within the approved 2026. He further noted that while general consensus had been expressed by member states, the Kazakhstan side requested that a decision be deferred pending Kazakhstan's final position, and that consideration of the proposal would therefore be taken up at this session of CPR with a view to reaching consensus.

35. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev** stated that, following feedback received from Astana, his delegation was not in a position to support the Secretariat's proposal at this stage. He asked the Secretariat to provide detailed explanations regarding the budgetary figures associated with the proposal, noting discrepancies between previously cited cost estimates for the conversion of the guard positions, and requested clarification on other related budgetary items. Regarding the proposed promotion of two staff members, he noted that this issue was linked to the proposal on guard positions, as the promotions were understood to be financed from the resulting savings. He therefore requested that consideration of the matter be deferred to the next CPR meeting, indicating that Kazakhstan would submit its questions formally.

36. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** explained that the three guards currently serving under temporary contracts in local currency, while the proposal sought to convert these into permanent contracts against US dollars. He noted that this change would provide job security to the guards.

37. The **ECO Secretary General** said that the Secretariat had already responded to the budget-related questions raised by Kazakhstan and did not consider the budget to be flawed. He acknowledged, however, that further clarification might be helpful and stated that the Secretariat was ready to meet with Kazakhstan to explain the differences in the figures, in the interest of transparency. He noted that most member states supported the proposal and that the Secretariat remained open to addressing any additional questions. Regarding the guards, he recalled that their continued employment on temporary contracts had been questioned by auditors and could not be sustained. He emphasized that, in light of the Secretariat's security needs and recent experiences, there was a strong justification for retaining the guards under appropriate contractual arrangements. He added that the Secretariat was prepared to further explain salary-related aspects, if required.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

38. The Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI), **Mr. Behzad Saberi** Ansari informed the Council that, following the mandate of ECO Trade Ministers at their Istanbul meeting in November 2025, the Secretariat had prepared draft Terms of Reference for a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) to renegotiate ECOTA, with the first meeting envisaged for the first quarter of 2026. He noted that the draft was circulated to member states on January 14, together with a request for indications on hosting the first meeting and for comments on the draft, and encouraged early feedback from capitals. He also reported that the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry had convened its Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings on January 22 in Karachi, with Secretariat participation. He noted that ECO-CCI remained an important platform for private sector engagement, in line with ministerial mandates, and that a report would be shared with the Council at its next session.

39. The **Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI)** further informed the Council that the Secretariat was considering re-establishing cooperation with the International Trade Centre, with which ECO had a Memorandum of Understanding that expired in 2002. He noted ITC's interest in renewed engagement and indicated that, in the absence of objections, the Secretariat would move to revive cooperation and to sign a new MoU, with the understanding that any future concrete projects will be submitted to the relevant ECO bodies.

40. The Council endorsed the proposed course of action as outlined by the Deputy Secretary General.

41. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), signed in November 2021, was valid until the end of 2025. He noted that, following discussions between ECO and UNESCAP, there was in-principle agreement to work on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. He therefore sought the Council's permission to proceed in this regard.

42. The **Council** endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to proceed with the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and UNESCAP. The Council also authorized the ECO Sectary General to sign it on behalf of the Organization.

43. The Representative of the **Republic of Uzbekistan** raised two issues under any other business. **First,** he referred to the draft strategic document Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, noting that discussions had been ongoing for over a year without reaching consensus. He requested member states to expedite the submission of their comments and asked the Secretariat to follow up with capitals and consider setting a deadline for finalization, preferably by the next CPR meeting or a specified date. **Second,** he sought clarification on the timing of the second High-Level Conference (HLC), noting that the first HLC was held in 2025 and that its report had been finalized by the Council.

44. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined that 2026 is the year for adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035. He urged member states to expedite their national consultations and submit final inputs, noting that finalization of the Vision in the first half of the year is a priority for the Secretariat. He stated that a revised draft would be

circulated and that, while no deadline was set at this stage, the matter would be revisited at the next CPR to agree on a clear timeline, recalling that the 2025 Vision had been extended pending adoption of the new document.

45. Regarding the High-Level Conference (HLC), the **Secretary General** conveyed that, following finalization of its report, the Secretariat would work through the relevant working group to develop actionable recommendations for consideration by the CPR and the Council of Ministers. He stated that the second HLC could be held either in conjunction with the Council of Ministers or, alternatively, in the middle of the year, possibly linked to consideration of the Vision document, with proposed dates to be submitted to the CPR.

46. Concerning TNC (Technical Negotiation Committee to renegotiate ECOTA), the **Secretary General** urged member states to provide early comments on the draft Terms of Reference. He noted that, given time constraints, the first TNC meeting might be convened in a hybrid format to approve the Terms of Reference and commence negotiations, following practices used in other regional organizations, and emphasized the need to launch this process without delay.

47. On Draft Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation 2025, the Representative of the **Republic of Türkiye** informed the Council that comments from the Turkish authorities had been conveyed previously and that additional comments from the Ministry of Industry and Technology also received and formally communicated to the Secretariat.

48. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**TC&HRSD**) informed the Council that the Secretariat had received an invitation from the Ministry of Information Technology and Communication of Pakistan to participate in the AI Summit 2026, to be held on February 9 in Islamabad. He noted that the Summit aimed to bring together global stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and investment circles, and that it would provide useful opportunities for engagement in the ICT sector, particularly in view of Pakistan's hosting of the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in March. He therefore requested the Council's approval for the Secretary General's participation in the event.

49. The **Council** concurred with the participation of the Secretary General in the AI Summit 2026 scheduled for February 9, 2026 in Islamabad.

50. The Representative of the **Republic of Uzbekistan** inquired about the status of the meeting of railway agencies scheduled to be held on February 9, 2026 in Tehran, seeking clarification on whether the meeting would take place in person as planned or whether capitals should await further notice.

51. The Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa** confirmed that the meeting remained on the programme with no changes and assured that member states would be informed through the Secretariat in case of any further update.

52. In addition, the Representative of **Islamic Republic of Iran** explained that the temporary internet disruption was the result of a strategic decision taken by the relevant authorities for security reasons. He emphasized that ensuring the smooth functioning of the ECO Secretariat and the work of member states remained a top priority for Iran as the host country. He stated that, shortly after the disruption, MFA of Iran had engaged closely

with relevant authorities to restore internet connectivity and that the ECO Secretary General had met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy where Iran's full support was reaffirmed for the practical solutions. He noted that, from the Iranian authorities' perspective, internet connectivity has been restored, but acknowledged that technical issues appeared to persist at the Secretariat level. He assured the Council that Iran would continue to follow up on the matter to address any remaining technical difficulties.

53. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that drawing on experience from previous situations, preparation of a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is under consideration by the Secretariat to guide responses in such circumstances. He explained that any decisions on possible measures affecting Secretariat staff would be taken by the Secretariat and the Secretary General, in close consultation with member states and guided by the assessments and decisions of the host authorities as well as respective embassies, given that Secretariat staff is seconded by respective member countries. He emphasized that the Secretariat would not take decisions on behalf of individual member states and would rely on guidance from embassies concerning their nationals. He further noted that international staff had been given the option, on a voluntary basis, to make temporary arrangements for their families if they so wished. He added that the Secretariat did not have a dedicated budget for emergency measures and that any such actions would require appropriate arrangements and support from member states, including, if necessary, special contributions. He stated that these considerations would be reflected in the draft SOPs, which would be shared with member states for their views in due course.

54. The **Council** expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov, for his distinguished service, leadership and significant contributions to the work of the Secretariat, and extended its best wishes for his future endeavours.

55. Moreover, the **Council** welcomed the appointment of Ms. Sameeah Alvi of Pakistan as Head of Section for International Relations, and expressed confidence that her expertise would be a valuable addition to the work of the Secretariat. They wished her every success in the discharge of her new responsibilities.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting

i. The **Council** decided to hold its next (305th) Meeting on February 25, 2026 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:
- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:
- H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic

Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:
- Ms. Aizada Berdigulova, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:
- H.E. Mr. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:
- H.E. Mr. Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:
- H.E. Mr. Hicabi Kirlangic, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:
- H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:
- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moeen, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/295

Priority: Normal
Date: 9/4/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Report of the 304th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on February 25, 2026, and adopted by the 305th CPR Meeting on April 6, 2026.

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

All ECO Member States - Tehran

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

304th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Report

February 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Report

Held on February 25, 2026 under the Chairmanship of Pakistan, the 304th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035
- Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)
- Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
- Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region;
- Administrative and budgetary matters;
  - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting

2. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting held on January 27, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/88 dated February 1, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

3. The **Chair, Ambassador Muhammad Mudassir Tipu,** recalled that the 303rd CPR Meeting considered the draft Plan of Work on the follow-up of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan and agreed to defer the matter to the present session in order to allow additional comments from Member States. He invited the delegates to convey further comments, if any, on the document for consideration by the Council.

4. The Representatives of **Türkiye, Mr. Murat Sogangoz** and **Azerbaijan, Mr. Asgar Asgarov,** informed that they had transmitted Notes Verbales to the Secretariat conveying their respective additional and updated comments on the draft Action Plan, and requested that these inputs be duly circulated and incorporated in the revised version of the document.

5. **The ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism JPC & EAPA), Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash,** informed that comments received from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan were incorporated in the revised document and accordingly circulated. He further noted that additional inputs received from Azerbaijan and Türkiye were being incorporated for final circulation, requesting the Council to finalize the Action Plan to enable the initiation of its follow-up actions.

6. The **ECO Secretary General, Ambassador Asad M. Khan,** emphasized that the Action Plan is a working document and would continue to be updated based on inputs from Member States. While a cut-off date had been indicated, it was intended mainly to enable the Secretariat to begin implementing the decisions of the ECO leadership without further delay. He added that all the comments received and to be received would be incorporated in the document, accordingly.

7. The **Council**, taking into account the positions expressed and the inputs received from Member States, agreed to endorse the Action Plan. The Council also tasked the Secretariat to reflect in the document any additional feedback, if received from member states in the course of implementation.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

8. The **Chair** highlighted that, as decided by the Council at its previous session, a silence procedure was adopted to secure the approval of the Council of Ministers for the list of ECO events scheduled between January and May 2026. He noted, however, that the organizational and hospitality arrangements for the 36th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council, scheduled for May17-20 2026, are yet to be considered by the Council. He invited the Secretariat to brief on the proposed format and arrangements.

9. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev,** underlined that, pursuant to the decision of the 303rd CPR Meeting, a silence procedure was initiated to secure the COM's approval for the list of events scheduled between January and May 2026, including additional events proposed by Iran. While the silence procedure concluded on February 10, 2026, the Embassy of Kazakhstan subsequently conveyed that it did not recognize the commencement of the procedure as it received the relevant communication after the indicated deadline. He proposed the Council to provisionally endorse the interim list of events and allow Kazakhstan an additional two-week period to convey its final position.

10. Regarding the organizational arrangements for the 36th RPC Meeting, scheduled for May17-20 2026, the **Deputy Secretary General** proposed to hold the meeting in hybrid format at the ECO Secretariat to ensure broad participation. He further proposed that up to two delegates from each Member State attending the meeting in person be provided three nights' accommodation and reimbursement of round-trip air tickets up to USD 900 per delegate from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF), upon request. Local transportation between hotels and the Secretariat would be arranged by the Secretariat, while airport transfers would be facilitated by the respective embassies, he mentioned.

11. The **ECO Secretary General** clarified that, due to technical reasons, Kazakhstan side did not receive the NV regarding silence procedure on time. He noted that since no other Member State had raised any objection, a two-week extension in silence procedure starting from February 25, 2026 be given solely to allow Kazakhstan to convey its concurrence.

12. The Representative of **Türkiye** stated that his delegation had no objection to the Secretariat's proposal and requested the inclusion of the 5th International Istanbul Water Forum, scheduled for May 5-6 2026, in the list of events, adding that the same would also be communicated formally through a Note Verbale.

13. The **Council** agreed to extend the silence procedure for an additional two-week period to enable Kazakhstan to convey its final position, while provisionally endorsing the interim list of events. It also concurred with the inclusion of event in the list proposed by Iran and Türkiye.

14. In addition, the **Council** approved the following proposal of the Secretariat:

- Hybrid organization of the 36th RPC Meeting at the ECO Secretariat from May 17-20, 2026;

- Three nights' accommodation and reimbursement of maximum 900 USD for the return airfare up to two delegates from each member country from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF), upon request.

Agenda Item No. 5
Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

15. The **Chair** underlined that while the drafting of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 was ongoing, the validity of the current ECO Vision 2025 had been extended by the 29th Council of Ministers until June 2026, or until the finalization of the new Vision document. He invited the Secretariat to update the Council in this regard.

16. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed that, in line with the conclusion of the 303rd CPR Meeting, the Secretariat requested Member States to submit their final and consolidated feedback on the updated version of the draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, by February 15 2026. He noted that while the fresh comments received from Azerbaijan and Iran were circulated, they were provided on the very first version of the document. He, therefore, requested the Member States, including Azerbaijan and Iran, to provide their feedback on the latest version circulated on February 1 2026 in order to facilitate timely finalization of the draft. He further proposed the establishment of a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for 2026 to complete the ongoing formulation of Draft Strategic Goals within the set timeframe, and to make preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th COM Meeting to be held in the second half of 2026.

17. The **ECO Secretary General,** while noting the limited time remaining, emphasized the need to expedite the process, and stressed the need for establishing the proposed PrepCom in order to meet the assigned task of finalizing ECO's next ten-year strategy.

18. The **Council** decided to establish the proposed PrepCom for finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, and to initiate preparations for the 18th Summit and 20th COM Meeting. To this end, it authorized the Secretariat to accordingly proceed.

Agenda Item No. 6
Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)

19. The **Chair** recalled that, pursuant to the decision of the 303rd CPR Meeting, a Working Group was established to follow up on the recommendations of the High-Level Committee and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the matter, including possible suggestions for holding the next HLC meeting in 2026.

20. The **ECO Secretary General** stated that the Secretariat vide an earlier Note Verbale requested the Member States to nominate their representatives to the Working Group established to follow up on the recommendations of the 1st HLC. He noted that nominations were received from Azerbaijan, Iran and Uzbekistan, while such information from other Member States is yet to be received. He further stated that, in response to a communication from Uzbekistan regarding the date for the next HLC meeting, the Working Group would examine the suitable timeline and agenda, including matters related to the implementation of the forthcoming Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation. The date of the first Working Group meeting would be proposed in due course, he added.

21. The Representative of **Kazakhstan, Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev,** considered it premature to convene the Second HLC Meeting during the current year, noting that further time was needed to work on the implementation of the recently adopted recommendations. He suggested that the organization of next HLC meeting might be considered for 2027.

22. The **ECO Secretary General** reiterated that the matter could be left to the Working Group for further consideration. He explained that the timing of the next HLC Meeting would depend on the progress made in preparing the proposal on 1st HLC recommendations and finalizing the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation.

23. The Representative of **Iran, Mr. Behzad Azarsa,** sought clarification regarding the nominations received for the Working Group, inquiring whether the representatives are designated by the respective capitals or from the embassies. He further stated that while Iran remained open to convening the next HLC meeting, it was important to bear in mind the Committee's mandate to review the functioning of the Organization and propose reforms and improvements. He discouraged unnecessary delay and suggested that the next HLC meeting could be held either later this year or early next year.

24. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** clarified that Iran had nominated its representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan from their respective capitals. He noted that it was at the discretion of each Member State to designate either a representative from the capital or an official from the Embassy responsible for the relevant matters.

25. The Representative of **Türkiye** underscored the importance of the reform process, expressing support for convening the Second HLC meeting. He agreed that the matter could be further elaborated within the Working Group, as suggested by the distinguished Secretary General.

26. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined the importance of the HLC as a key platform for guidance at the deputy minister level, recalling the full participation of Member States at the previous meeting. While noting that the HLC is expected to convene at least once annually, he emphasized the need that meetings should be organized with proper preparations and supported by substantive agenda items. He suggested that, with adequate notice of at least four months, the next HLC meeting could be considered either in the last quarter of the current year or in the first quarter of 2026. He stressed that the Working Group's task would be critical in developing concrete, sector-specific proposals and shaping the agenda for the next HLC, reiterating that the timing of the meeting should be decided based on the progress achieved rather than convened merely as a procedural requirement.

27. The **Chair**, in his capacity as the Permanent Representative of **Pakistan**, acknowledged that the First HLC meeting had been productive and underscored the importance of regularly convening such forums to strengthen the Organization. Noting the HLC's central role in making key reforms, he expressed the view that efforts should be made to hold the next HLC meeting during the current year.

28. The Permanent Representative of **Uzbekistan, Mr. Fariddin Nasriev,** expressed support for convening the next HLC meeting within the current year, noting sufficient time for its preparations. He also said that the previous HLC meeting was quite productive and assured that they would formally propose the dates for its next session.

29. The **Council** tasked the Secretariat to finalize the necessary preparations and organize the Working Group's Meeting at an early and suitable date, thereby initiating the process on HLC's recommendations, and preparations for its next round.

Agenda Item No. 7
Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030

30. The **Chair** stated that the 301st CPR Meeting in November 2025 had considered the draft ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030. He invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the latest status of the Roadmap.

31. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined the importance and sensitivity of minerals cooperation for the ECO region and noted that the Secretariat had prepared the Five-Year Roadmap for endorsement by the Member States, ensuring broad consultation by extending the deadlines for comments to secure ownership of the document by all membership.

32. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR), Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut**, underscored that the draft ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030 was submitted to Member States in February 2025 and further discussed at the 301st CPR Meeting. He noted that the Roadmap constitutes the first comprehensive strategic

framework for minerals cooperation within ECO, providing a coherent mid- and long-term perspective aligned with the ECO Vision and the draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035. He further informed that the 9th ECO Minerals Experts Group had welcomed the initiative and that a Task Force, chaired by Pakistan, was established to finalize the document. Following consultations and a meeting of the Task Force, the revised version of the Roadmap was circulated in on October 2, 2025 for final consideration by the member states. He stated that comments were received from all Member States except Uzbekistan and, in the absence of a dedicated ministerial platform on minerals cooperation, sought the Council's approval of the Roadmap to enable its implementation from 2026. He assured that, upon approval and subject to Member States' interest, the Secretariat would prepare a detailed plan of action outlining activities, timelines and expected outcomes.

33. The **Chair** expressed strong support for the proposal, describing it as an important and forward-looking initiative. He underscored the sector's long-term strategic value and highlighted its potential to enhance regional integration and create expanded opportunities for cooperation among Member States. He emphasized that, from Pakistan's perspective, the Roadmap represented a significant and practical step toward strengthening collaboration within the ECO framework.

34. Considering the proposal and given the views expressed, the **Council** endorsed the ECO Five-year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-35, tasking the Secretariat to proceed further.

Agenda Item No. 8
Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region

35. The Representative of **Turkmenistan, Mr. Merdan Bayjanov,** informed the Council about his country's experience in establishing a joint border trade zone with Uzbekistan, namely the "Shavat–Dashoguz" zone, launched in November 2025, aimed at enhancing trade, investment and business cooperation between the two countries. He noted that the initiative could be replicated in other areas, including the "Alat–Farab" zone, and highlighted its economic significance and facilitation measures, including visa-free access within the designated area. He recalled that, following earlier interest expressed by the former Secretary General, Turkmenistan had submitted a formal request in October 2025 for a pre-feasibility study on the establishment of joint border trade zones within the ECO region, along with a draft concept note. He noted that the proposal had been circulated amongst Member States and that no comments were received within the set deadline. Emphasizing the importance of such a study in assessing the economic, legal, infrastructural and financial feasibility of establishing similar zones across the ECO region, he requested the Council's consent for the Secretariat to proceed with the development of an appropriate project to undertake the study. His detailed remarks are enclosed as **Annex-II.**

36. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized that the experience of the Turkmenistan–Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan–Iran joint trade zones could serve as useful models for replication across the region, taking into account the specific circumstances of contiguous neighboring countries. He noted that a model agreement was circulated to facilitate similar bilateral arrangements and highlighted the importance of conducting a feasibility or pre-feasibility study to advance transport connectivity and support the development of a

regional free trade area. He urged the Council to consider the proposal positively and endorse the study as a practical initiative for regional cooperation.

37. The Representative of **Iran** expressed appreciation to Turkmenistan for introducing the proposal. He stated that Iran fully supports the initiative in principle, noting its positive experience in border trade cooperation with Turkmenistan. He emphasized that such arrangements not only facilitate trade among ECO Member States but also ease visa procedures, thereby strengthening regional connectivity.

38. The **Chair** emphasized the long-term strategic significance of joint border free trade zones, noting that the coming decades would be consequential for the future of regional cooperation within ECO. He described such initiatives as potentially large-scale and transformative if pursued collectively by Member States. Referring to the importance of taking gradual yet decisive steps toward deeper integration, he expressed Pakistan's support in principle for the proposal. He also highlighted the vast population and economic potential of the ECO region, citing major connectivity initiatives such as the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor as examples of the scale of cooperation that could be achieved through collective commitment.

39. Talking all aspects of the proposal into account and given the significance of the project, the **Council** endorsed the proposal and authorized the Secretariat to take further appropriate action.

Agenda Item No. 9
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- ***Recommendation of the Selection Panel (if any)***

40. The **Council** considered and approved the following appointments at the ECO Secretariat as recommended by the Selection Panel:

I. Mr. Engin Kurt (Turkish national), as Program Officer (Category-II, P3) for a full tenure of four years, effective from the date of joining, against the vacant position in the Trade and Investment Directorate;
II. Mr. Arshad Ali Jatoi (Pakistani national) as Desk Officer (Category-II, P2) for a full tenure of four years, effective from the date of joining, upon completion of tenure of Mr. Mehran Malik on June 11, 2026.

41. The **Council** further agreed that Mr. Mehran Malik may continue to serve until the arrival of his successor to ensure proper handover of responsibilities.

- ***Proposal regarding Category-III Staff***

42. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR),** recalled that, following the discussion at the Council's last session, the Embassy of Kazakhstan conveyed two Notes Verbales requesting detailed information on the Secretariat's approved staff strength, personnel-related expenditures and budgetary calculations for 2026. He informed the Council that the Secretariat provided the requested clarifications and supporting information through Notes Verbales dated 23 February 2026. He requested the Council to consider and approve the Secretariat's proposals concerning the readjustment of Category-III staff.

43. The Permanent Representative of **Kazakhstan**, **Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev,** stated that the clarifications provided by the Secretariat were received on a day before and need to be conveyed to their capital for review. He informed that, pending official instructions from Astana, he was not in a position to support the proposal and requested additional time to convey their formal position.

44. The **ECO Secretary General** reaffirmed that the Secretariat fully respects the right of Member States to seek detailed information on budgetary and administrative matters, and noted that comprehensive response was provided in that spirit. He was optimistic that the matter could be finalized at the next CPR Meeting, while emphasizing that prolonged deferral could affect the functioning of the Secretariat. In light of administrative and legal obligations, he sought approval for the continuation of the concerned security staff's services on an interim basis until the Council reaches a final decision.

45. The Representative of **Iran** underscored the importance of ensuring the security of the Secretariat premises, particularly given the host country's responsibilities. He requested the Kazakhstan side to treat the matter on priority and supported the continuation of the concerned staff's services on an interim basis.

46. The **Chair** seconded the views expressed by Iranian Representative and ECO Secretary General, emphasizing the importance of completing all necessary administrative and legal formalities at the earliest.

47. The **Council** took note of all the views expressed and endorsed the proposal, allowing the current security staff until the final decision is taken. The Council also urged the Kazakh delegation to expedite the process of securing required concurrence from the authorities in Astana, enabling the finalization of the matter by next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10
Any other business

- ***ECO Clean Energy Center***

48. The Representative of **Azerbaijan** recalled that the 233rd CPR Meeting, held on September 11, 2018, had approved the allocation of USD 50,000 from the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for the partial financing of the establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO). He informed that the inaugural Board of Governors Meeting of CECECO, held on September 9, 2025, had adopted the Rules of Procedure and appointed the Executive Director, enabling the signing of the Host Country Agreement and the establishment of the Center's headquarters in Baku. The Center had since commenced operations with limited local staff supported by the Government of Azerbaijan. He further stated that, on February 4, 2026, CECECO had formally requested the release and disbursement of the previously approved funds to support its operational activities. In this regard, he requested the Council to give its consent to the release of the allocated amount to facilitate the Center's activities. He informed the Council that the Executive Director of the ECO Clean Energy Center, was virtually available to respond to any queries.

49. The **ECO Secretary General,** while highlighting the strategic importance of clean energy cooperation for the ECO region, said that the previous allocation of USD 50,000 from the FGPF was intended to support the preparatory phase of the Center's establishment and since the CECECO is now operationalized, the release of the sanctioned amount would enable the commencement of substantive activities. Noting that Azerbaijan had already contributed substantial financial resources toward the establishment of the Center, he assured that the Secretariat would proceed subject to the availability of sufficient funds within the said fund, or refer the matter back to the Council for review.

50. The Representative of **Iran** expressed support in principle for the release of the funds approved in 2018 but raised two points for clarification. First, he inquired whether such approvals are subject to any period-validity. Second, he sought clarification on the financial implications of the allocation, particularly whether the passage of time since 2018 posed any budgetary constraints or obligations.

51. The **ECO Legal Advisor, Mr. Hojjat Moghavem,** clarified that, as a general principle, decisions of the Council are not considered time-bound unless a specific deadline is clearly stipulated in the decision. In the absence of such wording, it remains valid until amended or superseded by the Council. He noted, however, that given the financial implications and the time passed since the original approval, the allocation should be appropriately reflected in the budget to avoid procedural complications. He further stated that the Council may decide at the present session either to proceed on the basis of the earlier or adopt a new decision.

52. The Representative of **Türkiye**, while noting the financial and budgetary implications involved, requested that the Secretariat to provide written clarification on the matter so that it could be transmitted to his capital for consideration and obtaining instructions before next meeting of the Council.

53. The Permanent Representative of **Iran, H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian,** requested clarification on whether the allocation would be made within existing resources or entail additional budgetary implications. While expressing support in principle for contributing to the Center in Azerbaijan, he emphasized the need for clear information regarding the financial provisions before a decision is taken.

54. Given the positions explained, the **Council** tasked the Secretariat to circulate a written clarification on the financial implications of the proposed release of funds and agreed to defer the matter to its next session.

- ***ECOTA TNC***

55. The **Deputy Secretary General (TI&AI), Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari,** stated that the Secretariat previously circulated two Notes Verbales, circulataing the draft Terms of Reference for the ECOTA Technical Negotiating Committee (TNC) and requesting Member States to propose a date and host for its first meeting, in line with the decision of Trade Ministers to convene the TNC in the first quarter of 2026. He noted that no proposals were received to date. Given the current calendar constraints, including the holy month of Ramadan and upcoming holidays, he observed that holding the meeting within the first quarter would not be feasible. He informed the Council that the Secretariat would circulate another Note Verbale proposing to convene an online meeting in April to discuss and

possibly approve the draft Terms of Reference, as well as to deliberate on the format and scheduling of future TNC meetings.

56. The **ECO Secretary General** stressed the importance of convening the meeting at the earliest opportunity, suggesting that the first session could be held online to finalize the Terms of Reference and initiate the negotiation process, which would form the basis for the next Trade Ministerial Meeting. He urged Member States to treat the matter on priority and to nominate their representatives promptly to ensure active participation in the process.

- ***ECO-ASEAN Contact Group***

57. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR)** underlined that, under the framework of cooperation adopted at the 15th ECO–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in September 2023, an ECO–ASEAN Contact Group was envisaged to meet regularly to monitor implementation and explore new areas of cooperation. He noted that, despite reiteration of this objective at the 16th ECO–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in September 2024, the inaugural meeting of the Contact Group has yet to be convened. In this regard, he proposed that Pakistan, as the current ECO Chair, may request their Ambassador in Jakarta to coordinate and convene the first meeting of the ECO–ASEAN Contact Group, comprising ECO and ASEAN Ambassadors based in Jakarta, in order to operationalize the mechanism and further strengthen inter-regional cooperation.

- ***ECO-SCO Cooperation***

58. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR)** informed the Council of recent discussions between the ECO and SCO Secretaries General regarding the prospect of strengthening institutional cooperation. In this context, he sought the Council's approval to formally initiate the process for acquiring Observership status for ECO within the SCO by addressing an official communication to the SCO Secretariat to commence the necessary negotiations.

- ***ECO-EEC Cooperation***

59. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR)** informed the Council that, following a meeting between the ECO Secretary General and the Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission, enhanced collaboration between the two organizations was emphasized. Both sides recognized that exchange of expertise would promote coordination and synergy in advancing economic development. In this regard, he sought the Council's approval to initiate discussions with the EEC to explore areas of mutual interest and to formalize cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding.

- ***SG Participation in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference***

60. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR)** informed the Council that the Secretary General has bee invited to attend the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, to be held in Boao, China, from March 24 to 27, 2026. The ECO delegation will comprise the Secretary General and one staff member. The host authority would cover international travel, local transportation and accommodation, while the Secretariat would provide DSA only.

61. The **ECO Secretary General** provided additional context regarding the proposed engagement with ASEAN, SCO and EEC. On **ASEAN**, he recalled the longstanding cooperative framework between ECO and ASEAN and noted that, despite periodic ministerial engagements, tangible outcomes remained limited. He informed that discussions with the ASEAN Secretary General underscored the need to operationalize the ECO–ASEAN Contact Group in Jakarta as a practical first step toward identifying concrete areas of cooperation. He indicated that the Secretariat intended to engage ASEAN Ambassadors in Tehran and, with the support of the Chair, encourage the Ambassador of Pakistan in Jakarta to convene the inaugural Contact Group meeting. **Regarding SCO**, he stated that while discussions on an MoU were ongoing, ECO had not formally requested observer status. Given the significant overlap in membership and in line with SCO procedures, he sought the Council's authorization to submit a formal request for ECO's Observership in SCO. **With respect to EEC**, he noted the increasing relevance of engagement due to overlapping membership and evolving regional trade dynamics. Following constructive exchanges with the EEC Chairman, he requested the Council's approval to initiate formal consultations aimed at establishing an institutional relationship.

62. The Representative of **Türkiye** noted that the three proposals concerning external institutional engagement were significant and would require approval from his capital. While taking note of the explanations provided, he requested the Secretariat to circulate written details on the proposals to enable his delegation to seek instructions and revert at the next CPR Meeting.

63. The **ECO Secretary General** clarified that the proposal concerning ASEAN did not introduce a new initiative but sought to operationalize an already endorsed ECO–ASEAN Contact Group. Regarding SCO, he noted that previous CPR decisions had addressed engagement with the organization, and that the current proposal sought formal concurrence to transmit an official ECO intention for Observership in SCO. As for the EEC, he explained that the Secretariat was requesting the designation of focal points to initiate consultations. While acknowledging the request for written details, he assured to circulate the proposals in writing and urged Member States to seek instructions from their capitals in advance of the next CPR Meeting.

64. The Representative of **Iran** expressed support in principle for the proposed engagements with ASEAN, SCO and EEC, noting that such interactions would be mutually beneficial. He recalled that Iran's Embassy in Jakarta had previously been proactive in facilitating coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and supported the activation of the ECO–ASEAN Contact Group. Regarding the SCO, he highlighted the importance of enhancing the level of cooperation and noted that ECO's participation in high-level SCO-related events would be valuable. He also conveyed support for initiating engagement with the EEC.

65. The **Chair**, speaking in his capacity as the Permanent Representative of **Pakistan**, expressed strong support for the proposed engagements with ASEAN, SCO, EEC, and the SG's participation in the Boao Forum for Asia. He emphasized that such interactions would enhance the profile and strategic relevance of ECO across the regions. He further stated that Pakistan would actively engage its Mission in Jakarta to facilitate the activation of the ECO–ASEAN Contact Group.

66. The **Council** approved the participation of the Secretary General in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, accompanied by one relevant staff member. With regard to the proposed engagements with ASEAN, SCO and EEC, the Council tasked the Secretariat to circulate the proposals in writing for consideration by Member States and agreed to defer discussion to its next session.

67. The **Council** warmly welcomed the new members of the ECO Secretariat team, including Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash (Kazakh national) on his appointment as Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA), Ms. Lola Ibrahim (Tajik national) as Head of Section for Coordination and Follow-up (CFU), and Ms. Marryam Moin (Pakistani national) as Desk Officer for CFU. The Council expressed confidence in the expertise and experience they bring and conveyed its best wishes for success in the discharge of their official responsibilities.

Agenda Item No. 11
Date of the next CPR Meeting

68. The Council decided to hold its next (305th) Meeting on April 6, 2026 (10:00 AM) at the ECO Secretariat.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:
- H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:
- H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kylychev, **Permanent Representative**

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:
- H.E. Mr. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:
Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmet Bicer

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:
- H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
- H.E. Mr. Fariddin Nasriev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:
- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Amb. Yerzhan Mukash, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Behzad Sabery Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, Head of Section for CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moin, Desk Officer

Annexure-II

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary-General,
Dear Colleagues,

Allow me at the outset of my statement to share Turkmenistan's experience in establishing joint border trade zones. In November of last year, the "Shavat-Dashoguz" border trade zone was successfully launched on the border between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Construction of this facility began in October 2022. This project represents an important step toward expanding trade and economic cooperation between our countries.

The establishment of this zone opens up new opportunities to increase trade turnover, attract investment, and facilitate the exchange of experience between the business communities of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The launch of the border trade zone promotes the development of trade and strengthens economic ties between neighboring regions. Moreover, an agreement has been reached to replicate this experience in other areas, in particular in the "Alat-Farab" zone.

The total area of the joint trade center amounts to 6 hectares, of which 3 hectares belong to Uzbekistan and 3 hectares to Turkmenistan. If necessary, the territory may be expanded on the basis of a separate international agreement. Citizens of both countries may freely visit the zone without visa formalities.

In 2023, during one of his visits to Turkmenistan, the former Secretary-General expressed interest in our country's experience and proposed extending it to other regions, expressing readiness to support the conduct of a relevant study. In follow-up to this initiative, in October of last year we submitted a request (No. 28/3-1689, dated 30.10.2025) to conduct a pre-feasibility study on the establishment of joint border trade zones in the ECO region.
A draft concept note for the study was also presented, reflecting our vision for the further development of this process. This information was circulated to all Member States with a and proposals comments request to provide their (TC/2025/1671, dated 02.11.2025).

We understand that to date no comments have been received from Member States, which confirms that all the proposed ideas have been received positively (the deadline for submitting proposals was 20 December).

In this regard, we would like to emphasize that the pre-feasibility study plays a key role in assessing the feasibility of establishing joint border trade zones within the ECO region. The study will enable a comprehensive assessment of the economic, legal, infrastructural, and financial factors that will serve as the basis for informed decision-making.

We expect that the outcome of the study will be a comprehensive report providing a clear understanding of the opportunities and conditions for establishing such zones. It will also propose optimal locations for their placement, taking into account infrastructure and logistics requirements, assess investment strategies, and prepare financial projections.

Dear colleagues, in light of the above, we kindly request your consent to conduct this study through the development of an appropriate project by the Secretariat. We are

confident that this will be an important step toward further strengthening economic cooperation and deepening ties among our countries and regions.

Thank you for your attention.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/392

Priority: Normal
Date: 14/5/2026
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 the Report of the 305th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) adopted by the 306th CPR Meeting on May 12, 2026.

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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Be green. Print wisely.

ECO/CPR/305th /2026
March 24, 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

305th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

April 6, 2026
Hybrid Mode

Report

Held in hybrid mode on April 6, 2026 under the Chairmanship of Pakistan, the 305th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

2. The participating delegations joined the Chair/Representative of Pakistan, **Mr. Ahmed Shami,** and the ECO Secretary General, **Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan,** in expressing their profound condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the martyrdom of His Eminence Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, senior Iranian leadership and innocent civilians because of the recent agression. They conveyed strong solidarity with the Government and people of Islamic Republic of Iran and underscored their firm condemnation of the unlawful, unwarranted attacks and the currently imposed war. The delegations further reiterated the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and collective efforts to ensure de-escalation and restoration of peace and stability in the region, while appreciating the resilience of the ECO Secretariat and its continued functioning under extraordinary circumstances.

3. The Representative of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa,** expressed sincere appreciation for the messages of solidarity and support extended by Member States, both in words and in actions. He highlighted Iran's steadfast response to the situation, attributing it to the resilience of its people and institutions. He reiterated gratitude to regional and international partners for their understanding and support during this challenging period.

4. The participating delegations also joined the Chair and the ECO Secretary General in expressing their appreciation for the dedication, resilience and professionalism of the international and local staff of the ECO Secretariat, who continued to discharge their responsibilities and ensure the functioning of the Organization under exceptionally challenging circumstances. They acknowledged the commitment of the staff who remained physically present at the Secretariat, highlighting their valuable contribution in maintaining continuity of operations during this critical period.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 305th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 304th CPR Meeting;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035
- Follow-up of the Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)
- Consideration to Utilize ECO Special Support Fund (SSF) for participation in the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group on Tourism and 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism;
- Administrative and budgetary matters;

- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 304th CPR Meeting

6. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 304th CPR Meeting held on February 25, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/216 dated March 4, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 3
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

7. The **Chair** recalled the decisions of the 304th CPR Meeting regarding the extension of the silence procedure for the ECO events (January–May 2026) and the provisional endorsement of the list of events, as well as the approval to convene the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) in May 2026. He invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the status of the matter.

8. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev,** informed that, in the absence of any objection following the extended silence procedure, the list of events now stands finally approved. He further updated the Council on ongoing preparations for the RPC, including the circulation of working papers, while noting that further details would follow in due course. The ECO Secretary General emphasized the need to monitor the evolving regional situation and suggested that any decision regarding the meeting schedule could be revisited if necessary. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, **Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev** confirmed no objection, while the Representative of of Iran proposed removing the explicit reference to the "hybrid format," expressing preference to encourage in-person participation, with flexibility for virtual attendance. The **Chair**, supported by the Secretary General, acknowledged that while hybrid arrangements reflected past practice, the reference could be removed in the present context.

9. The **Council** agreed to proceed with preparations for the 36th RPC Meeting, while maintaining flexibility to review its timing and arrangements depending on the prevailing situation. It further agreed, upon the proposal of t Iran, to remove the explicit reference to the "hybrid format" from the relevant text, with the understanding that participation modalities would follow established practice. Accordingly, the list of events and arrangements related to the upcoming RPC were also considered adopted.

Agenda Item No. 4
Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

10. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD) informed the Council that, pursuant to the 304th CPR decision, a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was established to finalize the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035 and prepare for the 18th ECO Summit and 30th COM Meeting. He noted that Member States were requested to submit inputs on the latest draft circulated on 1 February 2026, as comments received from Azerbaijan and Iran pertained to an earlier version. He added that, due to prevailing

circumstances, the PrepCom has not yet convened and sought the Council's guidance on the way forward.

11. The **Council** took note of the update provided by the Secretariat, and agreed to defer the convening of the PrepCom until the next CPR Meeting. It also urged Member States to submit their inputs on the latest version of the draft. Moreover, the Council agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, will determine the appropriate timing for convening the PrepCom.

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up of the Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)

12. The **Council** considered the matter concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC) and took note of the briefing by the ECO Secretary General regarding the establishment of a Working Group to further deliberate on and develop these recommendations. It was noted that nominations had been received from Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, while nominations from other Member States were still awaited.

13. In light of the prevailing situation, the **ECO Secretary General** proposed to also defer the convening of the Working Group similar to that of PrepCom, while urging the Member States to submit their nominations. The **Chair** supported the proposal and encouraged all remaining Member States to convey their nominations for the Working Group.

14. Foregoing in view, the **Council** agreed to defer the convening of the Working Group on the HLC recommendations until the next CPR Meeting. It further urged Member States to submit their nominations at the earliest, enabling the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to convene the Working Group at an appropriate time.

Agenda Item No. 6
Consideration to Utilize Special Support Fund (SSF) for the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group and 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

15. The **Chair** noted that the ECO events for 2026 includes the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, preceded by the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group and the opening of Shusha as ECO Tourism Capital 2026, to be held in Azerbaijan from April27–29, 2026. In this context, he sought the Council's endorsement for utilizing the SSF to reimburse return airfare up to USD 900 for one expert-level delegate from each Member State, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council..

16. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, ERS, JPC & EAPA), **Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash**, informed the Council that Azerbaijan had confirmed its readiness to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the opening of Shusha as ECO Tourism Capital 2026. He noted challenges in reimbursing travel costs under the SSF due to the prevailing situation and outlined possible options, including initial self-funding by Member States with later reimbursement.

17. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of timely confirmation of participation at both ministerial and expert levels for the upcoming tourism meetings

and urged Member States to coordinate closely with the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He noted the logistical challenges in disbursing travel reimbursements under the Special Support Fund (SSF) under current circumstances and proposed that Member States initially cover the costs of their expert-level delegates, with reimbursement of up to USD 900 to be processed subsequently through their embassies in Tehran. He emphasized that these constraints should not hinder participation and expressed appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for proceeding with the organization of the meetings despite the challenging situation.

18. The Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, **Ambassador Ali Alizada,** reaffirmed Azerbaijan's readiness to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism at a high level and urged Member States to confirm their participation at the earliest. He further informed that, in order to facilitate participation under the prevailing circumstances, Azerbaijan stands ready to assist delegations facing travel difficulties, including by facilitating entry through land borders via neighboring countries. He expressed confidence that, with the support and cooperation of Member States, the meeting would be successfully convened, underscoring the importance of solidarity during this period.

19. The Representative of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa,** noted that his delegation had not yet received any official communication regarding the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group and the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. He requested that the Secretariat circulate the relevant Note Verbale on these events to facilitate formal consideration by Member States.

20. The ECO Programme Officer for Tourism, **Mr. Hassan Tufan,** informed the Council that the invitation for the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism were circulated electronically based on communication received from the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, due to connectivity issues, some Member States, including Iran, may not have received it. He added that the Secretariat has requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Tehran to resend the invitations through official channels, and assured that the Secretariat will also circulate the Note Verbale upon receipt.

21. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan**, while confirming the transmission of formal invitations through the Secretariat, urged Member States to support the utilization of the Special Support Fund (SSF) to ensure broad and inclusive participation in the upcoming tourism meetings.

22. The **ECO Secretary General** advised the Secretariat to resend the relevant communications in hard copy through diplomatic channels to Member States facing connectivity issues, noting that such arrangements had proven effective in the past and would help ensure timely receipt of official correspondence.

23. The ECO Deputy Secretary (TI & AI), **Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari,** clarified that the Secretariat had not received any formal Note Verbale from the Republic of Azerbaijan for circulation, but only informal invitations shared via email. He noted that, in order for the Secretariat to issue an official Note Verbale, a formal communication must first be

received through proper channels. In the meantime, he suggested that invitations could also be conveyed bilaterally through diplomatic missions.

24. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** stated that he would verify the status of the formal communication with th relevant authorities in Baku, assuring that, if not already transmitted, the invitation would be resent through official channels.

25. The **ECO Secretary General**, while noting that the matter now stands clarified, tasked the Secretariat to immediately circulate the invitations through a Note Verbale without delay, pending receipt of formal communication from the Embassy, in order to facilitate timely coordination and participation by Member States.

26. The **Chair**, summarizing the discussion, noted that Azerbaijan had encouraged Member States to confirm their participation in the upcoming tourism events at the earliest. He further stated that the Secretariat would ensure the prompt circulation of formal communications to those Member States that had not yet received them.

27. In light of the views expressed and positions explained, the **Council** agreed in principle to the utilization of the Special Support Fund (SSF) for reimbursement of air tickets, with modalities to be worked out between the Secretariat and Member States in due course.

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- ***Allocation of USD 50000 to ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO)***

28. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut**, underlined the Secretariat's current liquidity constraints in relation to the earlier request by Azerbaijan for the release of USD 50,000 for the Clean Energy Center (**CECECO**). He outlined two possible options for consideration: allocation through a supplementary budget for 2026, subject to approval by Member States, or inclusion of the request in the proposed budget for 2027. He noted that both options would remain subject to the availability of financial resources.

29. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** emphasized the importance of supporting the **CECECO** and underscored its active role since its establishment. He expressed reservations regarding the Secretariat's proposed options and instead suggested allocating the requested USD 50,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF), noting that sufficient resources had already been earmarked under the 2026 budget. He urged Member States to reconsider the proposal in this light, highlighting that the allocation would demonstrate the Organization's commitment and solidarity, as well as strengthen prospects for external support from international partners.

30. The Executive Director of the ECO Clean Energy Center, **Ms. Aysel Yagubova**, highlighted CECECO's active role since its establishment in promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and regional cooperation, including initiatives in capacity building, policy development and engagement with international partners. She underscored the importance of institutional support to sustain and expand these activities and recalled the

earlier decision to allocate USD 50,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). She urged the Council to support the implementation of this decision to enable CECECO to effectively deliver on its mandate.

31. The Representative of Türkiye, **Mr. Murat Sogangoz,** reaffirmed Türkiye's strong support for the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO). He informed that the matter is under consideration for parliamentary approval and noted that Türkiye would extend necessary support in due course. However, in view of the current constraints, he indicated a preference to consider the proposed allocation under the 2027 budget cycle.

32. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** recalled that the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) was established with the financial support of Azerbaijan. He questioned the rationale for deferring the proposed allocation to the 2027 budget, noting that resources were already available under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for 2026, and sought clarification from the Secretariat in this regard.

33. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** clarified that, although funds are earmarked under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF), the allocation for the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) was not included in the approved project list for 2026. He explained that, due to budgetary constraints and limited flexibility following the finalization of the budget, the allocation could not be accommodated without either introducing a supplementary budget or reallocating funds from existing projects, which was not feasible at this stage. He further noted that actual disbursement remains subject to liquidity, contingent upon the receipt of Member States' contributions after meeting mandatory operational expenditures. He assured that the Secretariat would provide detailed information on the current project list and available funding through a Note Verbale and proposed that the matter be revisited at the next CPR Meeting..

34. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized that there was no disagreement regarding the importance of fulfilling the Council's earlier commitment to support the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO). He explained that the issue was primarily related to the availability of liquid funds, noting that existing allocations under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) remain largely notional due to outstanding contributions from Member States and current operational constraints. He suggested that the Council may reaffirm the earlier decision in principle and authorize the allocation within the upcoming budget cycle, thereby facilitating its implementation once sufficient liquidity becomes available, while avoiding the need for further deliberation in the next budget process.

35. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** requested further clarification from the Secretariat regarding the utilization of funds allocated under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). He emphasized that any such allocations should be subject to the Council's approval and suggested that detailed information be shared through a Note Verbale. He reiterated the importance of implementing the previously agreed allocation for the CECECO. He expressed the view that, with expected receipt of Member States' contributions, it may still be possible to accommodate the allocation within the current budget, and called for further discussion among Member States before reaching a decision.

36. The **Executive Director of the CECECO** intervened to inform the Council of her upcoming participation in international forums organized by UNIDO, where CECECO's role and progress would be highlighted. She noted that international partners are closely observing the Center's development and emphasized the importance of demonstrating collective commitment from Member States to strengthen its credibility and attract further support. She also acknowledged the continued support of the Government of Azerbaijan in hosting the Center and providing initial operational resources. She underlined that additional financial support would be instrumental in enhancing CECECO's capacity to expand its activities and engage more effectively with international partners.

37. The **Chair** observed that further clarification was required regarding funding modalities and the utilization of available resources. He stated that the matter would remain on the agenda of the CPR, pending detailed information from the Secretariat. The Council would revisit the issue at its next meeting to explore possible funding options, including from existing resources or alternative arrangements, subject to the Council's approval.

38. The **Council** took note of the discussion and agreed to defer further consideration of the proposed allocation pending additional clarification from the Secretariat on the utilization of the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). The **Council** further agreed to include the matter as a separate item in the agenda of the next CPR Meeting for further deliberation and decision.

- ***ECO Annual Audit***

39. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the ECO's annual audit process, normally initiated at this time with the participation of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye, may face practical challenges due to the requirement for physical presence of auditors at the Secretariat. He noted that, in view of the prevailing situation, it may be appropriate to defer the audit process for the current year. He proposed that the Council may consider postponing the initiation of the audit and revisit the matter, including the composition of the Audit Board, at the next CPR Meeting in light of evolving circumstances.

40. The **ECO Secretary General** supported the proposal to defer the audit process until the next CPR Meeting, noting that the situation may improve in the meanwhile and allow the audit to proceed as planned. He added that, should the uncertainty persist, the Council may consider deferring the audit for the next year. He further suggested that the legal implications of conducting the audit on a non-annual basis may need to be examined, and invited the Legal Advisor to provide guidance in this regard.

41. The **ECO Legal Advisor** informed the Council that, under ECO financial regulations, audits are required to be conducted annually. However, he noted that, in practice, Member States had previously agreed to conduct audits on a biennial basis to enhance efficiency. He stated that the Secretariat remains prepared to facilitate the audit process. He added that the matter remains at the discretion of Member States, who may choose to follow either the regulatory requirement or past practice, or defer further consideration to the next CPR Meeting, noting that the issue is not urgent.

42. The **ECO Secretary General** suggested that, in view of established practice, the Council may consider continuing the audit process on a biennial basis. He further highlighted the request of Kazakhstan to join the Audit Board, indicating that this matter may also be considered in the context of reviewing the composition of the Board.

43. The ECO Deputy Secretary General, **Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari**, informed the Council that, notwithstanding the prevailing circumstances, the Secretariat remains fully prepared to conduct the audit, with all necessary financial documentation duly compiled and available. He emphasized that the decision on whether to proceed with the audit or defer it, including the modality and frequency, rests with the Member States.

44. The **Chair** acknowledged the Secretariat's readiness to conduct the audit, observing that it is not urgent under the current circumstances. He proposed that the Council may defer consideration of the audit, including issues related to its frequency and the possible inclusion of Kazakhstan in the Audit Board, to the next CPR Meeting.

45. The **Council** agreed to to defer discussion on the matter to its next Session.

Agenda Item No. 8
Any other business

46. The Representative of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev**, informed the Council of an invitation extended to the ECO Secretary General to attend the 18th Annual Session of the Intergovernmental Commission on the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Transport Corridor (TRACECA) and sought guidance on whether to include the event in the ECO calendar. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC&HRSD)** clarified that the event is not an ECO activity but noted that participation had already been confirmed. The ECO Secretary General suggested that, in line with past practice, the Council may authorize his participation, together with an officer from the Secretariat, without including the event in the ECO calendar, highlighting the reciprocal engagement between ECO and TRACECA.

47. The **Council** approved the participation of the ECO Secretary General in the said event along with a relevant officer from the Secretarait, in line with established practice.

48. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** informed the Council that, despite previously sharing updated contact details through a Note Verbale, his delegation had not been receiving correspondence from the Secretariat. In response, the Secretariat assured to check and rectify the issue.

49. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council of his upcoming visits to Antalya, Astana and Baku to attend high-level events. He requested the support of Permanent Representatives in facilitating meetings with senior officials, particularly Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other relevant institutions, to maximize engagement during these visits, including his first official visit to Astana.

50. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** recalled that, at the previous CPR Meeting, issues related to the inaugural meeting of the ECO-ASEAN Contact Group, observership status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and

cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission were discussed. He noted that, following Türkiye's request for further information, the Secretariat had circulated a Note Verbale and, in the absence of further comments or objections, sought the Council's approval to proceed with these initiatives.

51. The Representative of **Türkiye** expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the clarifications provided and informed that, following consultations with the capital, Türkiye had no objection to the proposed initiatives concerning cooperation with ASEAN and ECO, as well as engagement with the Eurasian Economic Union, provided that such cooperation remains confined to the economic domain.

52. The **Council**, in the absence of objections, endorsed the Secretariat's proposals to proceed with the inaugural meeting of the ECO-ASEAN Contact Group, the observership engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission.

53. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council of the challenges in processing salary payments for international staff due to current logistical constraints, including the inability to make financial transactions from Tehran. He noted that most non-Iranian international staff had temporarily relocated and highlighted the need to ensure continuity of payments, taking into account their subsistence and travel-related expenses. He indicated that the Secretariat would continue to monitor the situation and may present proposals at the next CPR Meeting, including possible arrangements for Member States to facilitate payments through national systems, with subsequent adjustments or reimbursements by the Secretariat.

54. The **Chair** took note of the issue raised by the ECO Secretary General regarding staff salary payments and agreed that the Council would continue to monitor the situation. He noted that the matter would be revisited at the next CPR Meeting, with the Secretariat expected to provide proposals for its resolution.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting

1. The Council agreed to hold its next (**306th**) Meeting on May 12, 2026 at 1000 hours.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov, Permanent Representative

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Fariddin Nasriev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, Head of Section for CFU
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Hassan Tufan, Program Officer for Tourism
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moin, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/534

Priority: Urgent
Date: 22/6/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Report of 306th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on May 12, 2026, and adopted by the 307th CPR Meeting held on June 22, 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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Be green. Print wisely.

ECO/CPR/306th /2026
April 28, 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

306th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

May 12, 2026
Hybrid Mode

Report

Held under the Chairmanship of Pakistan in hybrid mode on May 12, 2026, the 306th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

2. At the outset, the Chair/Charge d' Affaires a.i and Representative of Pakistan, **Mr. Ahmed Shami,** announced Pakistan's theme for its 2026 chairmanship: **"Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO."**

3. The ECO Secretary General, **Dr. Asad M. Khan,** welcomed Pakistan's announced theme for its 2026 chairmanship, describing it as timely and relevant in the current regional context. He underscored the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, trade, economic linkages and connectivity among member states, and expressed confidence that Pakistan's two-year chairmanship would provide a valuable opportunity to advance meaningful cooperation within the ECO.

4. The distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives also acknowledged with thanks this important theme and expressed their support for Pakistan's vision of strengthening regional cooperation, connectivity and sustainable development within the Organizataion's framework.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 306th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 305th CPR Meeting;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC);
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
- Follow-up to the Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC);
- Consideration for approval of amendment to TNC quorum requirements under ECOTA renegotiation process;
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 305th CPR Meeting

3. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 305th CPR Meeting held on April 6, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/291 dated April 9, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 3
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

4. The **Chair** recalled that the Council had agreed to proceed with the scheduled dates of the 36th RPC Meeting while maintaining flexibility regarding the format of the meeting in light of the prevailing situation. In this regard, the Chair invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the latest developments and updates following the discussions held during the previous session.

5. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev,** informed that, pursuant to the deliberations held during the previous CPR Meeting, the Secretariat had circulated several Notes Verbales requesting Member States to confirm their participation in the 36th RPC Meeting in view of the approaching dates of the event. He further informed that the tentative agenda and programme of the Meeting had also been shared with Member States, adding that Iran, Turkmenistan and Türkiye had formally confirmed their participation, while Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan informally indicated their participation in virtual format. It was further noted that, except for Türkiye and Turkmenistan, particulars of delegations had not yet been communicated to the Secretariat. He underlined that the required quorum for convening the Meeting was yet to be achieved and requested the Council to authorize the Secretariat to continue its efforts to organize the 36th RPC Meeting as scheduled.

6. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of convening the RPC Meeting to finalize the ECO Work Program and Calendar of Events 2026 and noted that, despite earlier scheduling constraints, preparations for the Meeting should continue in light of the participation confirmations received from Member States. He also encouraged Member States to make meaningful contributions and consider hosting activities under the forthcoming Work Program.

7. The **Chair** urged all Member States to ensure their active participation in the 36th RPC Meeting and to promptly confirm their participation and delegation details with the Secretariat in order to facilitate the timely finalization of the programme of activities and calendar of events. He also informed that Pakistan would shortly share the list of its participants with the Secretariat.

8. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI), Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari,** stated that the Secretariat stood fully ready to host the 36th RPC Meeting in Tehran and welcomed the participation of Member States' delegations both in person and virtually. He further noted that distinguished Ambassadors and Embassy representatives based in Tehran would also be welcomed to attend the Meeting at the Secretariat premises, even where their respective capitals had opted for virtual participation.

9. The Representative of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa**, stated that Iran would participate in person in the opening session of the Meeting. He further conveyed that the Iranian delegation would be headed by Dr. Qasemi, Deputy President of the Planning and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He emphasized the importance of receiving information regarding the level and composition of participating delegations in order to ensure effective participation in the various sectoral committees of the Meeting.

10. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, **Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev,** expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for its preparations for the 36th RPC Meeting and informed the Council that the Embassy had already communicated with the relevant authorities in Kazakhstan regarding participation in the Meeting. He further noted that the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Kazakhstan had informally confirmed its participation in virtual format and that detailed information regarding the nominated participants would be shared with the Secretariat in due course.

11. The **Chair** expressed the hope that Member States would communicate their participation details to the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity, particularly in view of the approaching dates of the 36th RPC Meeting, so as to ensure the meaningful convening of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4
Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

12. The **Chair** recalled that the 305th CPR Meeting had reviewed the progress on the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, noting that the convening of the Preparatory Committee Meeting was deferred due to the prevailing regional situation. He further recalled that the Council had urged Member States to submit their final inputs on the draft document and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the latest progress on this impotant matter.

13. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council that, pursuant to the decision taken at the previous session, the convening of the PrepCom Meeting had remained pending due to the continuing regional uncertainties. He further informed that the updated draft of the Strategic Goals, incorporating comments and inputs received from Member States, had been circulated on May 5. He added that additional feedback and proposals received from Türkiye, including recent submissions from their Ministry of Education, would also be incorporated into the revised draft before its circulation for consideration by the PrepCom. He also recalled that, following the decision of the 29th COM Meeting, the validity of the current ECO Vision 2025 had been extended until the end of June 2026 or the till adoption of the new vision document, whichever occurred earlier. In this regard, he sought the Council's guidance on convening the PrepCom Meeting in virtual or hybrid format and on granting a further six-month extension of the current ECO Vision 2025 pending the completion and adoption of the new Strategic Goals document, with the approval of COM to be obtained through silence procedure.

14. The **Chair** observed that, since the Draft Strategic Goals had not yet been finalized and adopted, the Secretariat's proposal to grant a further six-month extension of the current ECO Vision 2025, or until the adoption of the new document, appeared appropriate. He accordingly invited the views of the Council on the proposal.

15. The Representative of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev**, sought clarification regarding the necessity of granting a further extension of ECO Vision 2025, noting that the existing decision already provided for its validity until June 2026 or until the adoption of the new Strategic Goals document, whichever occurred earlier. He observed that,

under this understanding, ECO Vision 2025 would remain valid until the adoption of the new vision document, even if such adoption were to take place after June 2026. In this regard, he expressed the view that there might be no need for a separate COM decision regarding an additional extension, as the existing formulation could already provide the necessary flexibility.

16. The ECO Legal Adviser, **Mr. Hojjat Moghavem**, clarified that, under the existing decision, the validity of ECO Vision 2025 would expire at the end of June 2026, as the wording stipulated "until the end of June 2026 or finalization of the new Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, whichever is earlier." He therefore suggested that, instead of specifying another fixed timeline, the Council may consider extending the validity of ECO Vision 2025 until the adoption of the new Strategic Goals document.

17. The Chair **noted** that, instead of proposing another specific timeline for the adoption of the Draft Strategic Goals, the Council may consider extending the validity of ECO Vision 2025 until the adoption of the new Strategic Goals document, thereby avoiding repeated timeline-related discussions and ensuring greater procedural clarity. At the same time, the Chair noted that, as per his understanding of the existing formulation, the Draft Strategic Goals would need to be adopted before the end of June 2026, or otherwise, the validity of the current ECO Vision 2025 would expire under the existing decision.

18. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** emphasized that the logic behind the original formulation was that, if the new document were adopted earlier, ECO Vision 2025 would lapse at that point, whereas if adoption took place later, the current Vision would remain valid until such adoption.

19. The **ECO Secretary General** observed that, while the existing decision could possibly be interpreted flexibly so as to keep ECO Vision 2025 valid until the adoption of the new Strategic Goals document, the more important issue before the Council was the timely initiation of the preparatory process for finalization of the document. In this regard, he emphasized the need to convene the first PrepCom Meeting and agree on a date for its holding, noting that repeated circulation of revised drafts and additional Member States' inputs had resulted in the document expanding without substantive progress in the intergovernmental negotiation process. He further recalled that the intention had originally been to finalize the document before June 2026; however, as the process was now clearly extending beyond that timeframe, the Council might need to revisit the existing formulation and consider amending the language in line with the proposal put forward by the Legal Adviser.

20. The **Chair** concurred with the observations made by the Secretary General and noted that the adoption of the Draft Strategic Goals had already been pending for a considerable period of time. He further observed that, in view of the forthcoming RPC Meeting and the subsequent Eid holidays, the first session of the PrepCom could be convened either before or shortly after the Eid holidays.

21. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** expressed support for the proposal put forward by the Secretary General to convene the first PrepCom Meeting and informed the Council that Kazakhstan would be represented personally by him at the Meeting. He further

noted that, in view of this confirmation, a separate Note Verbale from Kazakhstan would not be necessary.

22. The **ECO Legal Adviser** stated that the Council is competent to interpret the existing decision regarding the validity of ECO Vision 2025. He suggested that consideration of the matter could be deferred until the next CPR Meeting, particularly if the PrepCom process would commence after the RPC Meeting. At the same time, he noted that, from a legal perspective, if the new Strategic Goals were not adopted by the end of June 2026, a further extension of ECO Vision 2025 would be required.

23. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that, although the wording of the earlier decision could be subject to differing interpretations, the spirit of the decision at the time of its adoption had been to finalize the Draft Strategic Goals as soon as possible and, in any case, not later than June 2026. He noted that this understanding had prompted the inclusion of the phrase "whichever is earlier" in the decision. He further emphasized that, while the Council remained the competent authority to interpret its own decisions, it would be preferable, for the sake of clarity and institutional record, to adopt a clear decision on the matter and seek the approval of the COM through silence procedure, rather than leaving the issue open to varying interpretations in the future.

24. The **Chair** noted that the overall spirit of the discussion reflected a common understanding that ECO Vision 2025 should continue to remain valid until the adoption of the Draft Strategic Goals. He observed that this understanding was consistent with the explanations provided by the Secretariat and the interpretation expressed by Kazakhstan, and suggested that the Council may proceed on that basis. While referring to the importance of expediting the finalization process, he emphasized the need to convene the PrepCom Meeting at the earliest opportunity. He noted that, in view of the forthcoming RPC Meeting and the subsequent Eid holidays, the first PrepCom session could be held shortly after Eid, while the modalities of participation could be determined separately.

25. The Representative of **Iran** welcomed the proposal and suggested that, instead of deferring the matter for further diplomatic consultations, the Council should agree on a specific date during the current session.

26. The Representative of **Türkiye, Mr. Murat Sogangoz,** proposed that, subject to the convenience of all delegations, the first PrepCom Meeting be held during the second week of June, suggesting 8 June as a possible date.

27. Following consultations, the Council reached a common understanding on two matters: firstly, that ECO Vision 2025 would remain valid and would continue until agreement was reached on the new Strategic Goals document, and secondly, that the first PrepCom Meeting would be convened on June 8, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up to the Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)

28. The **Chair** recalled that the 305th CPR Meeting had considered the follow-up to the recommendations of the High-Level Committee and had noted that nominations for the Working Group had been received from only a limited number of Member States. The

Chair further recalled that the Council had agreed to defer the convening of the Working Group and had urged the remaining Member States to submit their nominations. In this regard, the Chair invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the latest progress concerning the matter.

29. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that nominations for the Working Group had so far been received from Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, and that the relevant particulars had been circulated through a Note Verbale dated 2 May 2026. He further noted that, despite the continuing uncertainties, the matter had remained under consideration for a considerable period of time and there was growing interest among Member States in advancing discussions on reform and strengthening of the Organization. In this regard, he proposed that, alongside the convening of the PrepCom process, the first meeting of the Working Group could also be held during the first or second week of June 2026. He also renewed his request to those Member States that had not yet submitted their nominations to do so at the earliest opportunity in order to initiate the process on issues where a broad consensus and urgency already existed within the Organization.

30. The **Chair** informed the Council that Pakistan would shortly communicate its nomination for the Working Group following the receipt of instructions from the capital. Referring to the proposal made by the Secretary General regarding the convening of the first meeting of the Working Group, the Chair further invited the views of Member States on the possibility of holding the meeting either during the same week as the first PrepCom Meeting in the second week of June or during the following week.

31. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** observed that the scheduling of the Working Group Meeting could depend on the composition of the two processes i.e., the Working Group and the PrepCom. He suggested that, if the composition of both the processes were largely the same, the meetings could conveniently be held back-to-back during the same period, describing the proposal as a practical approach.

32. The **Chair** underlined that the scheduling of the Working Group Meeting would depend on the nominations and composition of delegations communicated by Member States. He observed that the Secretariat would be in a better position to advise the Council on whether the meetings could be held together, should the composition of delegations prove similar, or whether an alternative suitable date would need to be identified.

33. The **ECO Secretary General** suggested that, given the likely overlap in the composition of delegations participating in the PrepCom and the Working Group meetings, the two meetings could be convened back-to-back on the same day with separate time allocations. In this regard, he proposed that the PrepCom Meeting could be held in the morning and the Working Group Meeting in the afternoon, while also noting that, if necessary, the meetings could alternatively be held sequentially on separate dates.

34. The **Chair** concluded that the first meeting of the Working Group to discuss the recommendations of the High-Level Committee would be convened on June 8, 2026. He further noted that the sequencing and timing of both the PrepCom and Working Group meetings would be communicated separately by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 6
Consideration for approval of amendment to TNC quorum requirements under ECOTA renegotiation process

35. The **Chair** recalled that, following the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade and the 5th High-Level Expert Group Meeting, the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) had been established for the renegotiation of ECOTA. He further recalled that, during its first meeting held on April 15 2026, the TNC had adopted its Terms of Reference and proposed an amendment to the quorum requirement, replacing the fixed quorum of "three ECOTA Contracting Parties" with a "simple majority," subject to the approval of the CPR and the Council of Ministers. In this regard, the Chair invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the proposed amendment.

36. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined that one of the key outcomes of the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in Istanbul is the establishment of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) for the renegotiation of ECOTA. He further welcomed the participation of Member States that were not yet signatories to ECOTA and encouraged them to actively engage in the process so that the renegotiation outcomes could reflect both their interests and the broader interests of the region.

37. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI)** informed the Council that the first meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) had been successfully convened despite the prevailing extraordinary circumstances, with Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye participating as ECOTA Contracting Parties. He explained that, while the TNC had been authorized to adopt its own Terms of Reference, the proposed amendment relating to the quorum requirement required the endorsement of the CPR and subsequent approval of the Council of Ministers through silence procedure, since the original quorum provision had been approved at the Ministerial level. He further explained that the proposal to replace the fixed quorum of three ECOTA Contracting Parties with a simple majority had been introduced in anticipation of possible future expansion of ECOTA membership and was considered a practical adjustment.

38. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI)** also emphasized that the ECOTA renegotiation process remained fully open to non-signatory Member States and encouraged all ECO Member States to participate in the negotiations, stressing that participation in the process would not create any legal or political obligation or commitment whatsoever for those who participate. He further informed the Council that the Secretariat intended to organize an informal virtual consultation meeting in the near future in order to seek Member States' views and expectations regarding the future direction and conduct of the renegotiation process.

39. The Chair thanked the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General for their detailed briefings and encouraged all Member States, including non-signatories to ECOTA, to participate in the ongoing negotiations and informal consultations relating to the ECOTA renegotiation process. He noted that participation in the process would remain non-binding and non-committal, while providing Member States with an opportunity to follow the discussions and contribute to shaping the future direction of the process.

40. Regarding the proposed amendment to the TNC Terms of Reference, the **Chair** expressed the view that replacing the fixed quorum requirement of three Contracting Parties with a simple majority appeared to be a practical approach.

41. Noting the absence of any objections from Member States, the **Council** concluded that the proposed amendment is endorsed and could be referred to the Council of Ministers for approval through silence procedure.

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- ***Allocation of USD 50,000 to ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO)***

42. The **Chair** recalled that the 305th CPR Meeting had considered the proposal regarding the allocation of USD 50,000 to the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) and had agreed to defer the matter pending further clarification on the utilization of the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). Referring to the request made by the Representative of Azerbaijan during the previous session for additional details on the matter, the Chair invited the Secretariat to brief the Council accordingly.

43. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that, during his recent visit to Baku, he had visited the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO), where he received a comprehensive briefing from the Executive Director and the Centre's team regarding their activities, future plans, and the progress achieved thus far. He expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm, commitment, and professionalism demonstrated by the team and underscored the importance of extending institutional support to CECECO, particularly at its current formative stage as an emerging ECO specialized body.

44. The ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut**, informed the Council that, in line with the previous CPR decision, the Secretariat had circulated the list of ongoing projects to all Member States, noting that the CECECO project was not included in that list. He recalled that, under the established practice, the selection of projects under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) was normally undertaken through the RPC process and technical-level discussions among Member States. He further informed the Council that, despite the Secretariat's current liquidity constraints and difficulties relating to financial transfers, the Secretariat proposed allocating USD 50,000 as a grant from the FGPF within the budget allocation for 2026, under ongoing projects, subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers. In this regard, he clarified that the actual release of funds would remain contingent upon the availability of sufficient liquidity within the Secretariat.

45. The **Chair** thanked the Secretariat for the clarification provided but observed that the explanation had raised further questions regarding the practical implications of the Secretariat's liquidity constraints. In this regard, he sought clarification as to how the Council should determine whether the Secretariat possessed sufficient liquidity to support such projects and initiatives.

46. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** mentioned that "sufficient liquidity" referred to the availability of adequate financial resources to meet the Secretariat's essential operational expenditures, including salaries and maintenance costs. It further noted that the proposed allocation could be processed once pending contributions were received and the required liquidity level had been achieved, with the modalities of transfer to be coordinated with Azerbaijan.

47. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** sought clarification regarding the reference in the Secretariat's Note Verbale to "ongoing projects," questioning whether the proposed allocation to CECECO would involve the reallocation of resources from existing projects.

48. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** clarified that the proposed USD 50,000 allocation would be financed from the 2026 Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) and would not involve diverting resources from ongoing projects or increasing the approved budget. The Secretariat further explained that the list of ongoing projects had been circulated in response to a request made by Azerbaijan during the previous CPR Meeting.

49. The Representative of **Iran** noted that there was a distinction between project financing and grants, observing that projects normally followed specific modalities, contracts and Terms of Reference, whereas grants were governed differently. In this regard, he requested clarification from the Secretariat as to whether the proposed USD 50,000 allocation should be considered a grant or a project allocation under the FGPF.

50. The **ECO Secretary General** stated that the original 2018 decision had envisaged financial support by the Secretariat for the preparatory establishment process of the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO). He explained that, since the Centre was still in its institutional set-up phase, the proposed USD 50,000 allocation should be viewed as support for its establishment rather than as a project-specific grant subject to the usual project modalities and procedures. He further recalled that Azerbaijan had already allocated approximately USD 0.8 million towards the establishment of the Centre.

51. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** further clarified that CECECO was still at an early stage of development and therefore not yet in a position to prepare detailed project documentation normally required for project financing. He explained that the proposed USD 50,000 allocation should therefore be treated as a grant to support the Centre's initial institutional and coordination activities with Member States, after which CECECO would report on the utilization of the funds and the activities undertaken

52. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** inquired as to when the Secretariat expected the liquidity situation to improve and further sought clarification regarding the extent of outstanding arrears and unpaid contributions from Member States for the years 2025 and 2026.

53. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that a substantial portion of Member States' contributions for the current year had not yet been received, making it difficult to predict when the liquidity situation would improve. He

noted that the timing would depend largely on the receipt of pending contributions from Member States and the overall prevailing circumstances.

54. The **ECO Secretary General** further informed the Council that the Secretariat had repeatedly urged Member States to expedite their contributions and expressed appreciation to those Member States that had continued to channel their contributions despite existing challenges. He emphasized that the timely receipt of contributions remained essential for meeting the Organization's operational expenditures and sustaining its activities.

55. The **Chair** noted that, based on the discussion, the proposed USD 50,000 allocation to CECECO would be financed from within the existing budgetary resources, without creating any additional financial implications for Member States and without affecting already approved projects and would be subject to the availability of sufficient liquidity within the Secretariat.

56. The Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, **Ambassador Ali Alizada,** emphasized the importance of supporting the Centre, noting that CECECO had already initiated cooperation with international organizations aimed at mobilizing grants and implementing projects in Member States. He welcomed the Secretary General's visit to the Centre and highlighted the support extended by the Government of Azerbaijan for its establishment and functioning. In this regard, he expressed support for the proposed USD 50,000 allocation from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) and further suggested that Azerbaijan's forthcoming contribution to the Secretariat could, subject to the agreement of Member States and the Secretariat, be directly utilized for the allocation to CECECO.

57. The **ECO Secretary General** expressed the view that such an approach should be avoided, as it would not be consistent with the established modalities governing Member States' contributions and budgetary procedures. He further reaffirmed the Secretariat's appreciation for Azerbaijan's substantial support towards the establishment of CECECO and emphasized that the Organization, as the parent institution, should also contribute to supporting the Centre. In this regard, he noted that, following the Council's approval, the Secretariat would coordinate directly with Azerbaijan regarding the modalities for implementation of the allocation.

58. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** expressed appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for its continued support to the Organization and its contributions towards the establishment of CECECO. At the same time, he emphasized that CECECO formed part of the ECO family and therefore the Secretariat would prefer to channel the proposed allocation through the Secretariat itself rather than through a direct arrangement by Azerbaijan. He further noted that alternative modalities could be considered only if the Secretariat were unable to release the approved allocation in a timely manner due to liquidity constraints.

59. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** clarified that his earlier proposal had envisaged the allocation being processed through the Secretariat rather than directly from Azerbaijan to CECECO. In this regard, he explained that, should the Secretariat face

insufficient liquidity, Azerbaijan's forthcoming contribution to the Secretariat could potentially be utilized, through the Secretariat, for the approved allocation to CECECO.

60. The Executive Director of the ECO Clean Energy Center, **Ms. Aysel Yagubova**, expressed appreciation to the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, the Representative of Azerbaijan, and the Government of Azerbaijan for their constructive support and efforts in identifying modalities for the proposed allocation to the Centre. She reaffirmed CECECO's readiness to utilize the allocated funds for activities and projects aligned with the needs and priorities of Member States, in coordination with the concerned signatory states, and expressed readiness for further cooperation with the Organization and Member States.

61. The **Chair** welcomed the understanding reached by the Council regarding support for CECECO and expressed hope that the Centre would become fully functional at the earliest opportunity and contribute meaningfully to the Organization's activities in the field of clean energy.

62. Observing no objection by any Member States, the **Council** concluded that, as the allocation would be treated a grant, the matter would be referred to the Council of Ministers for approval through silence procedure, following which the allocation could be processed without creating any additional financial implications for Member States and without affecting already approved projects and would be subject to the availability of sufficient liquidity within the Secretariat.

- ***ECO Annual Audit***

63. The **Chair** noted that the ECO annual audit had not been conducted due to practical challenges arising from the prevailing regional situation. However, in light of the Council's consideration of convening the Working Group and PrepCom meetings, he suggested that the process for conducting the audit could also be initiated, including requesting Member States to nominate their audit teams.

64. The **Chair** further recalled that the Secretariat had previously indicated its readiness to facilitate the audit process with all necessary documentation in place. Observing that no objections had been raised by Member States, the Chair requested the Secretariat to circulate a Note Verbale for the initiation of the audit process.

- ***Staff Extensions***

65. In addition, **the Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the Secretariat had recently received three requests from Member States for extensions of service tenure concerning ECO Staff. In this regard, he briefed the Council on the requests relating to Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director (Cat-I, D2) for Energy, Minerals and Environment, whose service extension for one additional year has been requested by the Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Morteza Khansari Bozorgi, Program Officer (Cat-II, P3) in the Energy, Minerals and Environment Directorate, for whom the Islamic Republic of Iran has requested a two-month extension; and Ms. Neda Moshref Javadi, Program Officer (Cat-II, P1) in the Human Resources and Sustainable Development

Directorate, for whom the Islamic Republic of Iran has likewise requested a two-month extension. He sought the Council's approval for all three requests.

66. Having no objections raised, the **Council** approved the proposed three cases of extensions.

Agenda Item No. 8
Any other business

67. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that, based on assessments made on the ground, the Secretariat had decided to resume its work in Tehran in a gradual and phased manner. He noted that Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, had already returned to Tehran and that he himself would resume duties in Tehran on May 14 to physically participate in the RPC proceedings. He further stated that the next phase of return would take place after the Eid holidays, taking into account the practical challenges faced by staff and their families, while noting that the Secretariat had continued to function effectively through virtual and remote working arrangements. He also informed the Council that Secretariat staff members wishing to voluntarily return to Tehran were welcome to do so in accordance with the policies and determinations of their respective Member States, recalling that decisions regarding evacuation and return had been left to Member States and individuals concerned.

68. The **Secretary General** expressed appreciation to Kazakhstan for organizing a successful visit to Astana and facilitating a series of substantive meetings with senior officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister and several Ministers. He noted that the visit had provided valuable insights into Kazakhstan's priorities, which would further inform the work of the Economic Cooperation Organization. He further thanked Azerbaijan for successfully hosting the Seventh ECO Tourism Ministers' Meeting and for the formal declaration of Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital. He commended the hospitality and efforts of the Azerbaijani authorities in organizing the event under challenging circumstances. He also referred to his participation in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, describing it as a useful and enriching experience that enabled the Organization to contribute meaningfully to high-level discussions.

69. Finally, the **Secretary General** informed the Council that the Secretariat looked forward to resuming its full programme of work, including participation in the forthcoming Environment Ministers' Meeting to be held in Uzbekistan on June 3, noting that he remained in close contact with the relevant Uzbek authorities, including Minister Aziz Khakimov, to encourage broad ministerial participation. He recalled that the first meeting of the ECO Environment Forum had recently been held in Astana and expressed hope that the upcoming Ministerial Meeting would further advance the environmental cooperation agenda of the Organization. In this regard, he urged Permanent Representatives to encourage their respective authorities to confirm participation at the earliest opportunity.

70. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)**, referring to the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment scheduled for June 3, 2026, urged Member States to confirm their participation at the earliest opportunity. He further informed the Council that a Working Group Meeting would precede the Ministerial Meeting on June

2, 2026 and sought the Council's approval for the utilization of the Special Support Fund to cover the cost of one economy-class return airfare, up to USD 900, for one representative from each Member State attending the Working Group Meeting.

71. The Council approved the propposal for the utilization of SSF to cover expert level participation at the ministerial meeting on environment.

72. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** welcomed the planned resumption of the Secretariat's physical operations in Tehran and expressed appreciation for the Secretary General's return. In this regard, he suggested that the Secretariat may consider allowing female staff members to continue working virtually for an additional month, noting that instructions had not yet been issued by some capitals regarding the return of female personnel. He also expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's cooperation and support in organizing activities related to Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital and voiced hope for further events during the year. In addition, he sought clarification regarding the status and tenure of Pakistan's Permanent Representative and Chair of the CPR.

73. The **Chair** informed the Council that Ambassador Mohammad Mudassir Tipu had completed his tenure in Tehran and returned to Islamabad. He further noted that they had circulated information regarding his departure through a Note Verbale and email communication, although technical and internet-related issues at the time may have affected its receipt by some Member States. He also expressed regret that, due to the prevailing circumstances, the CPR had not been able to formally bid farewell to him and acknowledge his contributions to the Organization.

74. The **ECO Secretary General** noted that Mr. Shami had been serving as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim and had accordingly been chairing the CPR meetings in that capacity following the departure of Ambassador Mohammad Mudassir Tipu. He further informed the Council that Pakistan had already nominated a new Ambassador to Tehran, who was expected to assume his assignment in due course.

75. The Representative of Tajikistan, **Mr. Alisher Azamzoda**, First Secretary informed the Council that the Republic of Tajikistan had duly paid its assessed contribution to the Organization's budget for 2026. He further informed the Council that the 4th Meeting of ECO Ministers of Industry, the related Experts' Meeting, and the International Textile Forum would be held in Dushanbe on 22–23 September 2026, noting that official invitation letters would be circulated shortly and requesting Member States to confirm the participation of their representatives. He also informed the Council that the Fourth Dushanbe High-Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" would take place in Dushanbe from 25 to 28 May 2026. In this regard, he expressed hope for the participation of the Secretary General in the Conference and requested confirmation of participation at the earliest convenience in view of the limited time remaining before the event.

76. The **Chair** noted that the Secretariat was already aware of the two events proposed by Tajikistan and encouraged all Member States to ensure their active participation therein. Regarding the invitation extended to the Secretary General to participate in the Fourth Dushanbe High-Level International Conference on the Implementation of the

International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development," the Chair observed that the event was already covered under the approved calendar of activities.

77. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council about the completion of the project entitled "Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness," implemented by the Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development in cooperation with UNICEF. He noted that the initiative aimed to raise children's awareness and preparedness regarding disasters through an engaging educational format and had been officially launched during the 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Pakistan in January 2026. In this regard, he recalled that the Secretariat had requested Member States to support dissemination of the animation and integrate it into national disaster risk reduction programmes.

78. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** further informed the Council that the Secretariat had received an invitation to participate in the 8th Meeting of the ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee for the Trans-Caspian and Almaty–Tehran–Istanbul Corridors, scheduled to be held in Istanbul on June 5, 2026. He explained that the Committee addressed issues relating to transport infrastructure, digitalization, border processing efficiency, corridor timetables and tariffs and resilience of transport corridors, **and sought the Council's approval for the participation of the Director of the Transport and Communications Department in the meeting from June 4–6, 2026.**

79. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** also briefed the Council on the ongoing finalization of the updated ECO railways and road maps. He informed Member States that draft maps had already been circulated for review and that only Turkmenistan had so far provided corrections. In this regard, he urged Member States to submit any remaining comments or corrections by May 29, 2026, noting that absence of comments by the deadline would be treated as approval of the drafts.

80. Finally, the **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council about the planned ECO–ITU Webinar on ICT Policy and Regulation for the Digital Future, scheduled for 20 May 2026, and noted that Afghanistan had expressed its willingness to participate through its Ministry of Communications and IT. Referring to previous CPR practice allowing Afghanistan's participation at expert level, he sought the Council's authorization in this regard.

81. Regarding the animation project on disaster risk management, the **Chair** noted that, since the project had already been completed, the animation film should now be available for viewing and suggested that it could first be screened at the Secretariat prior to its broader dissemination among Member States. In response to the Secretariat's clarification that the link to the animation had already been circulated to Member States for comments and feedback, the Chair requested the Secretariat to recirculate the relevant Note Verbale and the link to the animation film.

82. Regarding the participation of the Director of the Transport and Communications Department in the 8th Meeting of the ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee, the **Chair** observed that, in the absence of objections from Member States, the Council could consider the participation approved.

83. Concerning the updated ECO railways and road maps, the **Chair** agreed with the Secretariat that sufficient time had already been provided to Member States for review of the drafts and urged delegations to submit any remaining comments before the deadline so that the maps could be finalized, published and circulated.

84. Regarding Afghanistan's participation in the ECO–ITU Webinar on ICT Policy and Regulation for the Digital Future, the **Chair** invited the views of Member States on the matter.

85. The **Secretary General** recalled that the Council had already established a clear practice regarding Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, whereby invitations to expert-level meetings could be extended by the Secretariat, while invitations to ministerial-level meetings would continue to be issued by Member States themselves. He further noted that the question of Afghanistan's participation in the CPR and other similar meetings remained under the Council's consideration pending a response from Afghanistan. He further clarified that the matter under discussion should therefore be treated as information for the Council rather than a request for approval, since the Council had already agreed in principle to Afghanistan's participation in expert-level meetings and activities.

86. The **Secretary General** informed the Council that the Secretariat was fully aware of Tajikistan's invitation to the Fourth International Conference on Water and noted that, despite certain logistical difficulties affecting his personal participation, the Secretariat would ensure representation at either the Secretary General or Deputy Secretary General level. He also welcomed Tajikistan's announcement regarding the convening of the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, noting that the meeting would take place after a gap of nearly two decades. He underlined the importance of ensuring high-level participation and informed the Council that the Secretariat was closely coordinating with the relevant authorities of Tajikistan, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Industry, as well as with Minister Sherali Kabir, particularly in relation to the concurrent organization of the International Textile Exhibition.

87. The **Chair** thanked the Secretary General for the clarification and noted that the information regarding Afghanistan's participation was duly acknowledged by the Council. He further observed that, in line with established past practice, Afghanistan may continue to participate in expert-level meetings and activities.

88. The Representative of **Iran** expressed appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Secretariat for organizing the 7th ECO Tourism Ministers Meeting in Shusha on 29 April 2026 and welcomed the participation of ECO Member States in the event. At the same time, he expressed concern regarding the comparatively low level of ministerial participation, noting that only a limited number of Ministers had attended the meeting. In this regard, he observed that the scheduling of the ECO Tourism Ministers Meeting concurrently with another important tourism-related ministerial meeting of a separate regional organization may have affected participation levels and suggested that such overlaps should be avoided in the future to ensure broader and higher-level participation by Member States in ECO activities.

89. The Representative of **Iran** further referred to the negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the meeting and expressed regret that a proposal submitted by Iran regarding damage caused to cultural and historical monuments in Iran during recent regional developments had not been fully reflected in the final text. He emphasized that the proposed language had been factual and non-political in nature and had aimed at highlighting the destruction and damage caused to cultural heritage sites and tourism-related infrastructure. In this regard, he stated that the issue should be duly reflected in the report of the meeting and underscored the importance of ensuring that the positions and sentiments expressed by ECO leaders in support of Iran were adequately reflected in the outcomes of relevant sectoral meetings and declarations. However, this issue was not the case in the said Ministerial Meeting.

90. The **ECO Secretary General**, while acknowledging the observations made by the Representative of Iran, noted that the level of participation in the 7th ECO Tourism Ministers Meeting had not been extremely low, recalling that several Member States had participated at ministerial or deputy ministerial level, including Pakistan, Türkiye, and Kazakhstan, while some others had been represented at ambassadorial level. At the same time, he agreed that broader ministerial participation would have been desirable given the importance of the meeting. He further observed that overlapping schedules between meetings of regional organizations with common membership could create participation challenges and encouraged Member States sharing membership in multiple organizations to assist the Secretariat in identifying potential scheduling overlaps in advance. He also noted that the prevailing regional circumstances may have additionally affected participation levels.

91. The **Chair** thanked the Secretary General for his clarifications regarding the level of participation in the 7th ECO Tourism Ministers Meeting and expressed hope that the explanation provided would address the concerns raised by the Representative of Iran. Regarding Iran's observations on the non-inclusion of the proposed paragraph in the Ministerial Declaration, the Chair noted that the concerns raised by Iran had been duly heard and acknowledged by Member States. He further observed that the matter would be conveyed by delegations to their respective capitals for consideration by their leadership and relevant authorities.

92. The Representative of **Iran** clarified that the paragraph proposed by Iran had been included in the Ministerial Declaration; however, in Iran's view, the language adopted was not as strong or explicit as it should have been and did not fully reflect the sympathy and support earlier expressed by ECO leaders regarding the recent developments affecting Iran, particularly with respect to the damage caused to cultural and historical monuments. He further emphasized that the proposed language had been factual, minimal, and non-political in nature, but had nevertheless not received full support from some Member States.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting

93. The Council decided to hold its next (**307th**) Meeting on June 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat in hybrid format.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:
- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Mohammad Saied Hojati, Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Ms. Tolooie , Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Charge d' Affaires a.i
- Mr. Kashid Ali, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:
Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmet Bicer, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:
- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:
- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Amb. Yerzhan Mukash, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Behzad Sabery Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, Head of Section for CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moin, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/679

Priority: Urgent
Date: 22/7/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Report of 307th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on June 22, 2026, and adopted by the 308th CPR Meeting held on July 21, 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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ECO/CPR/307th /2026
June 22, 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

307th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

June 22, 2026
Hybrid Mode

Report

Held in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on June 22, 2026, the 307th 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, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

2. **Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial**, Chairperson and Acting Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, welcomed the distinguished delegates of the ECO Member States and the representatives of the ECO Secretariat, and formally declared the meeting open.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 307th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 306th CPR Meeting;
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation - 2035;
- Preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th COM Meeting;
- Follow-up to the 1st Working Group Meeting on Recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC);
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the Next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 306th CPR Meeting

4. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 306th CPR Meeting held on May 12, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat`s Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/398 dated May 15, 2026.

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

5. The **Chairperson** recalled that the 306th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) had agreed to convene the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) on June 8, 2026 to review and finalize the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035. Recalling further the mandate entrusted to the PrepCom to facilitate the finalization of the draft document through consultations among the Member States, the Chairperson invited the Chair of the PrepCom/Secretariat to brief the Council on the outcome of the First PrepCom Meeting.

6. **Mr. Kashif Ali**, the **PrepCom's Chair** and the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, informed the Council that two PrepCom meetings were held on June 8 and June 18, 2026. He noted that the Secretariat circulated clean version of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035, incorporating comments received from Member States, including Türkiye and Uzbekistan, while additional inputs received from Pakistan were also reflected in the final text. To expedite the process, a deadline of July 9, 2026 was set for submission of any remaining comments.

7. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev** supplemented the briefing by highlighting the substantive outcomes of the PrepCom process. He noted that the Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the Draft Strategic Goals and considered all proposals submitted by Member States. Additional inputs from Türkiye and Uzbekistan were reviewed and agreed for incorporation into the draft. Regarding the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a separate chapter on science, education and culture, the Committee agreed, based on a proposal by Türkiye and with the concurrence of Iran, to integrate the relevant elements into the relevant thematic sectors of the document. He further informed the Council that a harmonized clean version had been circulated by the Secretariat for any final comments from Member States before the document is finalized and submitted to the CPR for onward recommendation to the Council of Ministers.

8. The ECO Secretary General, **Ambassador Asad M. Khan**, also emphasized the importance of finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 within the agreed timeframe, urging Member States to focus on concluding their review of the draft document and submitting any remaining comments by the established deadline so that the document could be finalized and submitted to the decision-making bodies in a timely manner.

9. The **Council** took note of the progress made by the PrepCom in advancing the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 and encouraged Member States to submit any remaining comments within the agreed timeframe to facilitate the timely finalization of the document. The Council also agreed to convene the 3rd PrepCom Meeting on July 15, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th COM Meetings

10. The **Chairperson** noted that the 17th ECO Summit, held in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan, on July 3–4, 2025, welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 18th ECO Summit. She further noted that, pursuant to the two-year ECO Chairmanship Formula approved by the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers on November 28, 2025, the 18th ECO Summit will be held under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers will be convened under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. She then invited the Chair of the PrepCom/Secretariat to brief the Council on the status of preparations for these two meetings.

11. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council that consultations on the timing and organizational arrangements for the 18th ECO Summit were ongoing. He also noted that preparations for the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15–16, 2026, were underway and that the zero draft Ministerial Communiqué had already been transmitted to the host country for consideration. He added that the PrepCom would continue its work to facilitate the preparations for the two meetings.

12. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa,** informed the Council that preparations for hosting the 18th ECO Summit were underway. He noted that consultations were continuing with the relevant national authorities and with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in line with the new two-year ECO Chairmanship Formula, to identify suitable dates for the Summit, consistent with the schedule of the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers. He further indicated that the first week of December 2026 was under consideration for the Summit, while emphasizing that the dates had not yet been finalized and would be communicated to Member States in due course.

13. The **Secretary General** reiterated the importance of an early announcement of the date of the 18th ECO Summit, noting that advance notice would facilitate participation at the highest level and enable adequate organizational and substantive preparations. Recalling the discussions surrounding the new two-year ECO Chairmanship Formula, he emphasized the importance of holding the Summit in 2026, which would allow the subsequent Summit to be convened under Pakistan's Chairmanship in 2027 in accordance with the agreed arrangement. He further noted that the Preparatory Committee was currently tasked with advancing several interrelated processes, including the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035, the recommendations of the High-Level Committee, the outcome documents of the forthcoming 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers and the 18th ECO Summit. In this regard, he underlined that the timely determination of dates would facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee and the effective preparation of the relevant outcome documents.

14. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed the Council that preparations for the event had commenced several months earlier, although recent developments had affected the planning process. He emphasized that the host side attached particular importance to the Summit itself as a high-level opportunity for regional dialogue and cooperation and, in this context, expressed the view that the Summit should not be overburdened with extensive documentation. He observed that the Council of Ministers was the appropriate forum for the consideration and adoption of such documents, while the Summit should primarily provide an opportunity for leaders to deliberate on issues of strategic importance to the region. He invited Member States to informally consult their capitals regarding the availability of their respective leaders during the proposed timeframe under consideration and requested the Secretariat to coordinate closely with the host country to avoid scheduling conflicts with other major regional and international events.

15. The **Secretary General** supported the request of the host country for informal indications regarding the availability of leaders and suggested that Member States may

also wish to consult their respective embassies in ECO capitals to facilitate this process. He further informed the Council that the Secretariat would review the calendars of relevant regional and international organizations and encouraged Member States to share information on any high-level meetings of organizations with overlapping membership that could affect scheduling of the 18th ECO Summit.

16. The **Council** took note of the information provided regarding the preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers. It encouraged the continuation of consultations and coordination among the host countries, Member States and the Secretariat and looked forward to the early announcement of the date of the 18th ECO Summit.

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up to the First Meeting of the Working Group on Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)

17. The Chairperson drew the Council's attention to the First Meeting of the Working Group on the Recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC), convened on June 8, 2026. Recalling the Working Group's mandate to develop concrete proposals on the recommendations of the First HLC Meeting, she invited the Chair of the Working Group to brief the Council on the outcome of its deliberations.

18. The **Chair of the Working Group/Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** noted that, at their two meetings held so far, they had undertaken preliminary discussions on a range of reform-related issues, including recruitment and merit-based selection processes, staff capacity-building, budgetary and financial matters and the roles and responsibilities of programme officers. He further informed the Council that, in order to facilitate structured consideration of the HLC recommendations, the Working Group had tasked the Secretariat with preparing an initial set of concrete proposals for circulation among Member States. The Working Group would continue its deliberations on the basis of these proposals with a view to developing consensus-based recommendations for submission to the Council.

19. The Deputy Secretary General (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut**, further informed the Council that the Working Group had completed an initial review of all recommendations of the First High-Level Committee (HLC) and had identified key approaches for translating them into concrete and actionable proposals aimed at strengthening the Organization's financial sustainability, institutional effectiveness and operational efficiency. He noted that the Secretariat would prepare and circulate a consolidated set of draft proposals reflecting the views expressed by Member States. He also encouraged Member States to submit any additional comments and proposals to support the ongoing process.

20. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** underscored the importance of the High-Level Committee (HLC) as a forum for strategic discussions and brainstorming on issues relating to the future direction and development of the Organization. In this regard, he expressed support for convening HLC meetings on a regular basis, preferably once a year, and encouraged the holding of a 2nd HLC meeting in 2026 with an emphasis on substantive discussions and exchange of views.

21. The **Secretary General** emphasized the importance of maintaining the momentum generated by the First High-Level Committee (HLC) Meeting, which had brought together all ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers. He noted, however, that the consideration of the HLC report had taken longer than anticipated and that the Organization was currently engaged in several major processes, including the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035, the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers and the 18th ECO Summit. In this context, he suggested that the next HLC meeting may be more appropriately convened in early 2027. He further proposed that the Organization may, at an appropriate stage, benefit from the experience and insights of former ECO Secretaries General and other eminent personalities in considering its future direction.

22. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Ambassador Alireza Toutounchian** emphasized that the High-Level Committee (HLC) should focus on providing strategic policy guidance for the Organization and its institutions, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, he stressed the importance of avoiding duplication with the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 and other vision-oriented processes, and underscored the need for the HLC to concentrate on broader institutional and organizational reform issues.

23. The **Chairperson** underscored the importance of active engagement by Member States in the High-Level Committee (HLC) process to ensure that its deliberations and outcomes effectively respond to the needs and priorities of the Organization.

24. The **Council** took note of the progress made by the Working Group and encouraged the continuation of its work, including the preparation and circulation of draft proposals by the Secretariat, with a view to developing consensus-based recommendations on the implementation of the HLC recommendations. The Council also agreed to organize the 3rd Working Group Meeting on HLC recommendations on July 15, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 6
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

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

- ***Audit Board***

26. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** recalled the Council's previous discussions regarding the composition of the Audit Board and informed the Council that, in response to the interest expressed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Secretariat proposed amending the relevant provisions of the ECO Financial Regulations to increase the membership of the Audit Board from three to four Member States. He further proposed establishing a quorum of three members for meetings of the Audit Board to ensure operational continuity and efficiency. Subject to the proposed amendment, the Audit Board would comprise the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Türkiye and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

27. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** noted that audits of the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Cultural Institute were traditionally conducted back-to-back and recalled that the Republic of Kazakhstan was not a member of the ECO Cultural Institute. He therefore drew attention to the need to distinguish between the audit arrangements of the two entities when considering the proposed composition of the Audit Board.

28. The **Secretary General** emphasized the importance of determining the composition of the Audit Board in a timely manner to facilitate the scheduling of future audit activities. He noted that the current composition of the Board had remained unchanged for many years despite the requirement for periodic review under the relevant regulations and invited the Council to consider the proposed amendments for onward submission to the Council of Ministers. Referring to the distinction between the audit arrangements of the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Cultural Institute, he observed that the Republic of Kazakhstan could either join the ECO Cultural Institute and thereby participate in both audit processes, or alternatively participate only in the audit of the ECO Secretariat, while separate arrangements would continue to apply to the audit of the ECO Cultural Institute.

29. The **Chairperson** observed that a distinction should be maintained between the audit arrangements of the ECO Secretariat and those of the ECO Cultural Institute. She further noted that, under the proposed arrangement, the Republic of Kazakhstan would participate in the Audit Board of the ECO Secretariat, while separate arrangements would continue to apply to the audit of the ECO Cultural Institute.

30. The **Legal Adviser** noted that Article 18 of the ECO Financial Regulations provides for annual audits, while the established practice has been to conduct audits every two years. He suggested that, in considering the proposed amendments to Article 18, Member States may also wish to examine whether the provision relating to the frequency of audits should be aligned with current practice.

31. The **Secretary General** concurred with the observations of the Legal Adviser and noted that, in addition to determining the composition of the Audit Board, Member States may also wish to consider the periodicity of the audit process when consulting their capitals on the proposed amendments to Article 18 of the Financial Regulations.

32. The **Council** took note of the proposal regarding the composition and quorum of the Audit Board, as well as the related observations concerning the audit arrangements of the ECO Cultural Institute and the periodicity of audits under Article 18 of the Financial Regulations. The Council agreed to refer the matter to Member States for consultation with their respective capitals and to revert to the issue at its next meeting.

- ***Membership contributions***

33. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration) briefed** the Council on the status of Member States' contributions for 2026, noting that contributions had thus far been received from only two Member States. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of the timely payment of outstanding assessed contributions to ensure the

financial sustainability and effective functioning of the Organization, maintain operational continuity and support the implementation of approved programmes and activities for 2026.

- ***Category-III Staff***

34. The DSG (Administration) recalled the Council's decision at its 304th Meeting to retain the current security arrangements on an interim basis pending a final decision on the matter. He further recalled the Council's request for the Republic of Kazakhstan to obtain the necessary concurrence from the relevant authorities in Astana and invited the Kazakh delegation to update the Council on the status of this process.

35. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev,** informed the Council that the proposals concerning the introduction of A4-level posts and the incorporation of security personnel into the staffing structure of the Organization remained under consideration by the relevant authorities in Astana. He stated that the outcome of these consultations would be communicated to the Council in due course.

36. The **Council** took note of the information provided by the Republic of Kazakhstan and, given the necessity of finalizing this important issue, urged the Kazakh delegation to ascertain the required concurrence from the relevant authorities in Astana for revisiting the matter at its next session.

Agenda Item No. 7
Any other business

37. The Chairperson invited delegations to raise any matters they wished to discuss under this agenda item.

38. The **Secretary General** informed the Council that the Secretariat had resumed its regular working schedule and in-person operations and was expected to return to full strength by June 27, 2026. Reflecting on the recent period of uncertainty and operational disruptions, he expressed appreciation to the Secretariat's staff, particularly the Iranian personnel who ensured continuity of operations under difficult circumstances. He commended the resilience demonstrated by the host country, and noted that the solidarity shown by the ECO Member States and the collective emphasis on peace and stability presented an opportunity to further strengthen regional cooperation. He underscored the need for the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for emergency situations, including clear arrangements concerning the relocation and return of international staff. In this regard, he emphasized the unique operational nature of the ECO Secretariat as an intergovernmental organization and informed the Council that the Secretariat would share relevant elements with Member States for their feedback before developing a formal framework.

39. The **Secretary General** further highlighted that, despite the logistical and operational challenges faced during the period, the Secretariat had successfully supported the organization of ministerial meetings in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. He particularly referred to the Sixth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held in

Samarkand after a gap of twelve years, which resulted in the adoption of the Framework Agreement on Environment Cooperation, the Samarkand Declaration and the Roadmap for the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environment, with the participation of seven ministers. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Uzbekistan for its leadership and hospitality in ensuring the success of the meeting.

40. The **Chairperson** welcomed the resumption of the Secretariat's normal operations and expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken to ensure continuity of the Organization's work during the recent period of uncertainty. She noted the importance of developing appropriate contingency arrangements, while expressing the hope that such measures would not be required in the future.

41. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** referred to the recent aggression and security challenges faced by his country, noting their human and material impact. He reaffirmed Iran's commitment, as the host country, to ensuring the smooth functioning of the ECO Secretariat and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary General, the Secretariat staff and the Iranian personnel who had maintained the Organization's operations during the recent period of uncertainty. He further noted that, despite the challenging circumstances, the ECO Secretariat had remained active and continued to advance its programme of work, including through the organization of ministerial and other meetings. He also expressed appreciation to the countries that had contributed to diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and de-escalation in the region.

42. The **Chairperson** underscored the importance of effective leadership and the continued relevance of the ECO in advancing regional cooperation. Speaking in her national capacity, she noted Pakistan's commitment to supporting regional peace and stability through dialogue and diplomacy, and expressed the hope that ongoing efforts would contribute to a positive outcome. She also expressed appreciation for the continued presence and dedication of the Iranian personnel serving at the ECO Secretariat.

43. The Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI), **Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari**, briefed the Council on recent developments relating to the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on ECOTA. He informed the Council that, following the adoption of the TNC Terms of Reference, the Secretariat had convened an informal virtual consultative meeting with Member States on 17 June 2026 to exchange views on the ongoing ECOTA revision process. He noted that the consultations had been constructive and had highlighted Member States' interest in advancing negotiations in an inclusive manner, while taking into account their respective trade commitments and constraints. He further informed the Council that the Secretariat would continue receiving and circulating proposals from Member States and would prepare draft texts for consideration as part of the agreed roadmap. Pending the convening of the next formal TNC meeting, the Secretariat intended to continue facilitating informal consultations to support progress in the negotiations.

44. The **Secretary General** underscored the importance of the ECOTA revision process and welcomed the renewed momentum generated by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, held in Istanbul after a prolonged interval.

He emphasized the value of informal consultations in building consensus and facilitating progress towards formal negotiations and encouraged all Member States, including those not yet party to ECOTA, to remain actively engaged in the process. Recalling that the Islamic Republic of Iran had announced its readiness to host the next Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, he expressed the hope that the ongoing process would contribute to advancing regional trade cooperation and strengthening ECOTA as a vehicle for promoting intra-regional trade and economic integration.

45. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** expressed appreciation for the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to advance the ECOTA revision process through the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC). He reaffirmed Iran's full support for the initiative and its commitment to participate actively and constructively in the ongoing process. He also encouraged Member States that are not yet parties to ECOTA to engage in and contribute to the negotiations.

46. The **Chairperson** welcomed the constructive engagement of Member States in the recent informal consultations and expressed the hope that the positive momentum generated would facilitate progress towards the next formal meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC). She underscored the importance of the ECOTA revision process for advancing the objectives of the Organization and encouraged Member States to actively engage in the forthcoming consideration of the draft texts to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 8
Date of the next CPR Meeting

47. The Council decided to hold its next (**308th**) Meeting on July 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat, in hybrid format.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Ambassador Alireza Toutounchian, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Director, ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department
- Ms. Shokoufeh Shadi, ECO Expert, ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

-

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial, **Acting Permanent Representative/Deputy Head of Mission**
- Mr. Kashif Ali, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Bahodur Nazir, Counsellor
  Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmet Bicer, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, **Secretary General**
- Amb. Yerzhan Mukash, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, Head of Section for CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Muhammad Irfan, Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moin, Desk Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/879

Priority: Normal
Date: 26/8/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith, the Report of 308th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on July 21, 2026, and adopted by the 309th CPR Meeting held on August 25, 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

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

Report

July 21, 2026
Hybrid Mode

Report

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

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

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 307th CPR Meeting

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

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

6. The **Chair** recalled that the 307th Meeting of the CPR welcomed the progress achieved by the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and agreed to convene its Third Meeting on July15, 2026. He then invited the Chair of the PrepCom and the ECO Secretariat to brief the Council on the outcome of the Third PrepCom Meeting and the current status of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035.

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th COM Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 5
Follow-up to the Working Group on Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 6
Consideration of the Calendar of Events – 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 7
Preparations for the International Conference on Financing the ECO Transport Projects and Corridors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 8
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

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

- ***Proposed Amendment to the ECO Financial Regulations***

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

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

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

- ***Status of Member States' Assessed Contributions***

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

- ***Category-III Staff's Related Matters***

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

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

- ***ECO Budget – 2027***

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

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

Agenda Item No. 9
Any other business

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 8
Date of the next CPR Meeting

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

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1212

Priority: Urgent
Date: 22/10/2026
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 to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith the Report of 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on 25 August 2026, as adopted by the 311th CPR Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

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

Report

August 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Report

Held on August 25, 2026 under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/ Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ***Convening the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly;***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29. The **Council** recognized the importance of prioritizing Special Support Fund (SSF) to facilitate Member States' participation and ensure the required quorum for important ECO meetings, and in light of the clarification provided by the Secretariat, approved the redesignation of the Senior Official's Meeting of the upcoming Transport Ministerial Meeting as a High-Level Expert Group meeting, approved the inclusion of the said meeting in the list of events proposed for utilization of the Special Support Fund, and adopted the proposed List of Events for 2026 to be covered from the SSF.

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

- ***Gulf Cooperation Council***

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

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

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

33. In this regard the Representative of **Iran** emphasized that in view of the prevailing regional situation, a cautious and phased approach was required. He stated that "Iran does not support further cooperation with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council at the present stage."

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

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

36. The **Chairperson** noted the views expressed by Member States and concluded that the matter would be considered in future.

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

37. The **Chairperson** introduced the proposal concerning ECO's Observership Status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and invited the Council to consider and

approve the initiation of formal negotiations with the SCO for acquiring Observer Status for ECO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45. The Representative of **Türkiye** sought clarification as to whether the draft MoU proposed to be concluded with the EEC would be submitted to the CPR for consideration. The **Secretariat** clarified that, once finalized, the draft MoU would be circulated among all Member States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54. The Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA), **Amb. Yerzhan Mukash,** recalled that the Secretary General had sought clarification from the Afghan side on the modalities of its participation in CPR meetings, its voting rights in light of outstanding budgetary

contributions and its participation in other international organizations. He informed that Afghanistan had subsequently conveyed its readiness to expand cooperation with ECO and pay its outstanding contributions, while requesting resumption of formal participation **on par** with other Member States, including representation at the ECO Secretariat and the use of the flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan at official ECO meetings. He further informed the Council of Afghanistan's requests to host the **Fifth ECO Trade Promotion Organizations Forum** and the **First Technical Consultative Meeting on Visa Facilitation for Business Persons** in 2026, as well as to participate in the **Technical Negotiations Committee for revision of ECOTA**, relevant Regional Institutions and other upcoming ECO activities. He sought the Council's guidance on the modalities of Afghanistan's participation, its hosting of ECO events and engagement in relevant technical and regional mechanisms.

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ***Draft ECO Budget for 2027 and follow-up to the Council's decision to establish a Working Group to examine the draft budget and submit its recommendations to the Council;***

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ***HLC Working Group***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 8
Any other business

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting

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

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1208

Priority: Urgent
Date: 22/10/2026
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 to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Report of 310th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on September 15, 2026, and adopted by the 311th CPR Meeting held on October 21, 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

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

Report

September 15, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Report

Held on September 15, 2026 under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the 310th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/ Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 310th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up to the 5th Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom):
  - ***Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;***
  - ***Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit;***
- Preparations for the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- Adoption of ECO Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030;
- Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors";
- Endorsement of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard (Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries);
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

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

2. The Chair/Permanent Representative of Pakistan, **Amb. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui,** invited comments on the draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting, circulated by the Secretariat through Note Verbale dated August 28, 2026.

3. The Representative of Tajikistan, **Mr. Bahodur Nazir,** proposed reflecting in the report that the participation of the Turkish Cypriot State (TCS) in the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Dushanbe was under consideration by their authorities. The Representative of Türkiye, **Mr. Murat Sogangoz**, did not support the proposal, maintaining that the draft Report accurately reflected the decision of previous meeting, where the Council's concurrence with the invitation had been sought and no objection was raised.

4. The Representative of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa**, requested incorporation of some amendments and corrections conveyed through Note Verbale dated September 15, 2026. The Representative of **Türkiye** required some additional time to consult its capital on the proposed amendments by Iranian delegation. The **ECO Secretariat** also proposed an amendment to paragraph 29 of the report to more clearly reflect the Council's earlier decision concerning the re-designation of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Transport Ministerial Meeting as a High-Level Expert Group Meeting and its eligibility for support from the Special Support Fund. The **Chair** noted that the Secretariat will shortly circulate its proposed amendment to indicated para for consideration by the member states.

5. In view of the need for further consultations on the proposed amendments, the **Council** deferred adoption of the Report of the 309th CPR Meeting to the next CPR Meeting.

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

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

6. The **Chair** underscored the importance of finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, which would provide ECO with a forward-looking framework for the coming decade, and requested the Chair of the PrepCom/Representative of Pakistan and the Secretariat to brief the Council on the progress made.

7. The Chair of the PrepCom/Representative of Pakistan, **Mr. Kashif Ali**, informed the Council that the PrepCom had held six meetings on the Draft Strategic Goals. He stated that, notwithstanding the expiry of the deadline of July 9, 2026, additional proposals received from Member States were duly considered. He further informed that the Sixth PrepCom Meeting, held on September 14, 2026, reviewed the draft following the Secretariat's technical and editorial review and agreed on the finalized version without substantive changes. He stated that the document was ready for endorsement by CPR and submission to the forthcoming Council of Ministers Meeting in Islamabad.

8. The Representative of **Türkiye** appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat and requested that consideration of the document be deferred until the next CPR Meeting. The **Chair** emphasized the urgency of finalizing the document in view of the imminence of the forthcoming Council of Ministers Meeting and requested Türkiye to reconsider its position. The Representative of **Türkiye** acknowledged the time constraints and stated that Türkiye would make every effort to ensure that a final document could be recommended to the Council of Ministers by the next CPR Meeting.

9. The **Chair of the PrepCom** cautioned against reopening the text, which could further prolong the process, particularly in view of the limited time remaining before the Council of Ministers Meeting.

10. The Representative of **Iran** expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Chairmanship, PrepCom and Secretariat, but noted that the draft was considerably longer than the previous version. He suggested consolidating the text where possible and proposed the inclusion of an executive summary and an implementation roadmap.

11. The Representative of **Iran** sought clarification whether the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, following consideration by the Council of Ministers, would be submitted to the Summit. The Secretary General, **Amb. Asad M. Khan,** clarified that, under the rules of the Organization, formal adoption would be undertaken by the Council of Ministers, while the Summit could take note of and welcome the document.

12. The **Chair** stated that, following its adoption, the Secretariat could prepare a separate executive summary of the document for circulation amongst the Member States, while urging the Secretariat and Member States to maintain the necessary momentum towards finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals.

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

13. The **Chair** underscored the importance of timely finalization of the Draft Islamabad Communiqué as part of preparations for the forthcoming Council of Ministers Meeting and Summit and requested the Chair of the PrepCom to brief the Council.

14. The **Chair of the PrepCom** informed the Council that PrepCom reviewed the document in light of comments received from Member States, retaining the substantive proposed changes. He further informed that an updated draft was circulated and that the Seventh PrepCom Meeting would be held on September 30, 2026. He expressed concern over the low participation of Member States and called upon them to submit their comments and ensure adequate participation.

15. The **Chair** underscored the importance of Member States' participation at the expert level to facilitate resolution of outstanding issues before their consideration by the CPR. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev,** requested Member States to submit comments and proposals at least three days before the relevant meetings to allow sufficient time for their consideration.

16. The Representative of **Iran** briefed the Council on preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, to be held in Tehran on December 3–4, 2026. He informed that preparations were progressing and consultations were underway to ensure the highest possible level of participation. He stated that invitation letters and details of hospitality arrangements would be communicated to Member States shortly.

17. The Representative of **Türkiye** requested that an invitation be extended to the Turkish Cypriot State (TCS) to participate in the forthcoming Council of Ministers Meeting and Summit. The Representative of **Iran** requested additional time to consider the matter and proposed that the request be placed under a two-week silence procedure, with a view to obtaining the Council's approval.

18. The **Council** agreed to place Türkiye's request concerning the participation of the Turkish Cypriot State (TCS) in the forthcoming Council of Ministers Meeting and Summit under a one-week silence procedure for approval of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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

20. The **Secretariat** informed the Council that no objections had been received under the silence procedure concerning the TCS participation in the forthcoming informal Council of Ministers Meeting. The **Secretary General** further informed that, to date, formal confirmations of participation had been received from Iran and Tajikistan, while informal indications had been received from Azerbaijan and Türkiye. He encouraged Member States to expedite confirmation of their participation.

21. The **Chair** underscored the importance of the informal meeting as an opportunity for ECO Member States to engage with other regional organizations and the United Nations on the margins of the UN General Assembly and to explore areas of cooperation and synergies. The Representative of **Türkiye** informed the Council that Türkiye would participate at the Deputy Foreign Minister level and that a Note Verbale confirming its participation would follow soon. The Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan, **Amb. Akylbek Kylychev** also confirmed that Kyrgyzstan would participate in the informal COM meeting.

22. The Representative of Azerbaijan, **Mr. Asgar Asgarov,** requested the Secretariat to circulate the detailed programme, including the timings of the Informal COM Meeting, to facilitate arrangements for bilateral and other meetings of the participating Ministers. The **Secretariat** clarified that the programme and timings had already been circulated and assured to re-circulate them, noting that the informal Council of Ministers Meeting was scheduled for 10:00 hours on September 25, 2026.

23. The Representative of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev,** informed the Council that its participation in the forthcoming informal Council of Ministers Meeting in New York remained under consideration and that Kazakhstan would communicate its decision once finalized.

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

24. The **Chair**, while introducing the matter, highlighted tourism as an important avenue for strengthening regional connectivity, economic activity and people-to-people contacts, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the final status of the ECO Roadmap on Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030.

25. The Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA), **Amb. Yerzhan Mukash**, informed the Council that the roadmap emanated from the proposal made by the President of Uzbekistan at the 17th ECO Summit in Khankendi in July 2025 and had subsequently undergone an inclusive consultative process incorporating comments and suggestions of Member States. Following circulation of the finalized draft through Note Verbale dated August 3, 2026, no objections were received by the stipulated deadline of September 1, 2026, except for a minor editorial suggestion from the Kyrgyz Republic. He further noted that the roadmap, aligned with the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, envisaged ten concrete initiatives across priority areas of the tourism sector through 2030 and sought the Council's endorsement.

26. The **Council** endorsed the ECO Roadmap on Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030. The **Chair** emphasized the importance of its effective implementation and the need for an appropriate implementation strategy to achieve the objectives of the roadmap.

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

27. The **Chair** introduced the agenda item, noting that the initiative of Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors had been under consideration for some time, including by the Regional Planning Council, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the finalization of the Concept Note.

28. The **Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA)** informed the Council that the initiative aimed at engaging prominent personalities to promote ECO tourism destinations and enhance the visibility of ECO and its tourism brand. The draft Concept Note was circulated through Note Verbale dated July 14, 2026, with August 20, 2026 as the deadline for comments, and no objections or amendments were received within the stipulated period. The Secretariat therefore sought the Council's endorsement to initiate the selection process from 2027.

29. The Representative of **Iran** requested additional time to obtain the views of its Ministry of Tourism and indicated that it would communicate its comments to the Secretariat for consideration by the next CPR Meeting.

30. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that the initiative had already received consideration by two RPC sessions and urged its early finalization. He clarified that the selection of Tourism Ambassadors would be undertaken transparently and in close consultation with, and with the express concurrence of, the concerned Member States.

31. While the **Council** deferred adoption of the Concept Note to the next CPR Meeting, pending receipt of Iran's comments, the Chair noted the Secretary General's assurances regarding transparency and consultation with the concerned Member States in the selection process.

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

32. The **Chair** introduced the agenda item, emphasizing the importance of reliable and comparable statistics for evidence-based understanding and decision-making in the region, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the proposal and its implementation arrangements.

33. The **Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA)** informed the Council that the proposal, initiated by Kazakhstan, envisaged establishing a shared digital statistical platform to provide comparable and regularly updated regional data. He invited the Kazakhstan side to present the proposed Dashboard to the Council.

34. The **Kazakhstan** side, through an online presentation, briefed the Council on the concept and pilot version of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard, aimed at replacing fragmented and static statistical information with a single, interactive platform for monitoring and comparing key regional indicators. The pilot covered all ten ECO Member States, around 30 indicators, with features enabling country profiles, cross-country comparisons and analysis of trends over time. It was clarified that the indicators used in the pilot were mainly based on internationally comparable World Bank data, while the final set of indicators would be refined and agreed by Member States in accordance with ECO priorities. It further outlined the proposed implementation process, comprising data preparation and integration, development, testing and validation in consultation with the Secretariat and users, integration with the ECO website, user training and post-launch technical support. The estimated development cost was USD 18,000, with full ownership and administration of the Dashboard to be transferred to the ECO Secretariat upon completion.

35. The Representative of **Iran** welcomed the initiative and emphasized the central role of the Secretariat in owning and managing the platform and ensuring that ECO data remained the reference for Member States. The ECO Secretary General confirmed that the Dashboard would be owned and managed by the Secretariat and explained that it would add value by addressing inconsistencies in available datasets and enabling data to be customized to ECO's regional requirements. The Chair stressed the importance of the quality, regularity and comparability of data provided by Member States.

36. The Representative of **Türkiye** supported the project and requested an update on the implementation of four transport-related projects earlier proposed by Kazakhstan. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD) informed that two of them were completed and their reports circulated, while the remaining two awaited interest/nominations from Member States. The relevant reports would be shared again with Türkiye, he said.

37. The Representative of **Pakistan** observed that maps used in the Dashboard should conform to the approved maps of Member States and relevant UN cartographic standards. The Chair underscored the sensitivity of the matter and requested that it be duly taken into account in the development of the platform.

38. The **Council** endorsed the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard project, with the understanding that the platform would be owned and managed by the ECO Secretariat and that the concerns expressed regarding the accuracy, comparability and regular updating of data, as well as the use of appropriate maps, would be duly taken into account during its development and implementation.

Agenda Item No. 8:
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

The **Chair** introduced the agenda item and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the proposals and matters requiring its consideration.

- ***Draft ECO Budget for 2027***

39. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn & IR)**, Mr. Çağatay Emrah Ongut, informed the Council that, so far, two Working Group meetings were convened to facilitate finalization of the Draft ECO Budget for 2027. Following the first meeting, the budget was further reviewed and reductions proposed by Kazakhstan were incorporated therein. The revised budget stood at USD 4,573,860, representing an increase of USD 36,533, or approximately 0.8%, over the approved 2026 budget. He explained that the modest increase was mainly attributable to unavoidable operational requirements, particularly anticipated staff turnover, while allocations under several budget heads were reduced despite inflationary pressures and rising costs in the host country. It further noted that participants in the second Working Group meeting raised no objection to the revised budget. The only outstanding issue concerned Kazakhstan's request to maintain its assessed contribution at the 2026 level, which could not be resolved at the Working Group level given the approved scale of assessment.

40. The Representative of **Türkiye** considered the proposed 0.8% increase modest and reasonable, but did not support maintaining Kazakhstan's contribution at the 2026 level, noting that this would have implications for the assessed contributions of other Member States. The Representative of Pakistan similarly emphasized that contributions should continue to be determined in accordance with the established scale of assessment and that the financial burden resulting from any deviation should not be shifted to other Member States.

41. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** reiterated its position that its assessed contribution should remain at the 2026 level. In response to the Chair's request for clarification on the implications of this position, the Secretary General stressed the importance of upholding the established principle of assessed contributions. He noted that the proposed increase was minimal, particularly in view of the Secretariat's longstanding financial restraint, including the absence of increases in salaries over the past five years and unchanged DSA, rental ceilings and annual increments for considerably longer periods. He indicated his readiness to engage bilaterally with Kazakhstan, including with Astana, if necessary, to seek a resolution, while clarifying that any resulting shortfall should not be transferred to other Member States.

42. The **Council** provisionally adopted the Draft ECO Budget for 2027 with the understanding that the Secretariat would further engage with Kazakhstan regarding its assessed contribution and revert to the Council on the outcome.

- ***Outcome of the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group***

43. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn & IR)** briefed the Council on the outcome of the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group, held on September 2, 2026, which considered concrete proposals relating to the first three chapters of the HLC

recommendations, namely: financial and budgetary matters; efficiency of the Secretariat and organizational structure; and recruitment and capacity building. He informed that the revised proposals, incorporating amendments agreed by the Working Group, had been circulated amongst Member States on September 7, 2026 for comments and that no objections were received so far. He, therefore, sought the Council's approval of the proposals, following which it would proceed with preparation of concrete proposals on the next three chapters of the HLC recommendations.

44. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** informed that the revised proposals were still under consideration in Astana and that it was awaiting its capital's position.

45. The **Secretary General**, while acknowledging the need for further consultations, drew the Council's attention to certain aspects of the proposals concerning recruitment and capacity building. In particular, he emphasized the merit of allowing Member States to nominate multiple candidates for vacant positions so that the established selection process could operate meaningfully. He also highlighted the need for a practical mechanism to address positions remaining vacant for prolonged periods due to non-nomination by the concerned Member State, without affecting that Member State's entitlement to the position in the longer term. He further called for greater clarity and a more definite timeframe regarding the development of formal internship programmes, stressing that the overall objective of the HLC exercise was to enhance the efficiency and capacity of the Secretariat.

46. The **ECO Legal Advisor**, Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, clarified that the proposal concerning several nominees was consistent with the existing Staff Regulations, particularly Article 6.7, which envisaged preparation of a shortlist of candidates based on job requirements, qualifications and experience, followed by interviews through the Selection Panel.

47. The Representative of **Iran** supported the observations of the Secretary General concerning the need to enhance the efficiency and visibility of the Secretariat. It considered the Secretariat's proposals on recruitment valid, while recognizing that changes to longstanding recruitment practices would require further consultations by Member States with their respective capitals. He encouraged Member States to reconsider their positions with a view to strengthening the efficiency of the Secretariat.

48. The **Council** took note of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group and the observations made during the discussion. In view of Kazakhstan's indication that the revised concrete proposals remained under consideration by its capital, their final approval remained pending further consultations. The Chair encouraged Member States to take into account the suggestions and clarifications made by the Secretariat in finalizing their positions.

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

49. The **Secretary General** recalled the Secretariat's proposal for granting financial compensation to the staff of the Secretariat, in recognition of the hardships faced by them, including two evacuations, as well as their diligent efforts to maintain the functionality of the Organization during the difficult circumstances. He noted that Kazakhstan had earlier been awaiting instructions from its capital on the proposal and invited its position.

50. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** informed the Council that they had no objection to the Secretariat's proposal and would support the consensus.

51. In the absence of any objection, the Council approved the Secretariat's proposal for exceptional financial compensation to the ECO staff, as proposed by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 9
Any Other Business

52. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** reported intermittent technical difficulties in receiving Notes Verbales through the Didgah system. The Secretariat acknowledged that recent internet disruptions and data-related issues might have affected transmission and undertook to examine the matter and revert bilaterally to Kazakhstan.

53. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** briefed the Council on preparations for the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, scheduled to be held on October 15, 2026 on the sidelines of the New Silk Road Forum in Astana, preceded by the High-Level Expert Group Meeting on October 14 and followed by a dialogue with the private sector on digitalization and financing of the transport sector. He informed that the draft agendas had already been circulated to Member States and, given the one-hour time slot allocated to the Ministerial Meeting, its agenda had been streamlined and statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation were expected to be limited to three minutes. The Astana Declaration and the Draft ECO Transport Strategy 2035 would constitute the two principal outcome documents, to be considered and further finalized through an online preparatory meeting.

54. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** further informed that the Secretariat had received an expression of interest from the Turkish Cypriot side to participate in the Ministerial Meeting and sought the Council's consideration of its participation, including the possibility of making a statement, subject to the CPR's approval and in accordance with the established modalities. He also noted that no request had been received from the host country concerning the invitation of non-ECO countries as guests. In line with established practice and ECO's cooperation with international partners, he proposed inviting selected partner organizations, including IRU and IsDB, to the Ministerial Meeting, without the opportunity to make statements, and also envisaged their participation in the subsequent dialogue with the private sector on digitalization and financing, in view of their relevance as important ECO partners in these areas.

55. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** further noted that the hospitality arrangements had already been circulated and informed that, thus far, Turkmenistan had formally confirmed participation at the level of Deputy Minister of Railway. In view of the need to finalize logistical and organizational arrangements, he urged Member States to communicate their participation and level of representation at the earliest.

56. The Representative of **Iran** emphasized the importance of using the exact nomenclature and references concerning observers as stipulated in the established ECO modalities and relevant documents. Recalling Iran's support for granting observer status to the Turkish Cypriot side, it stressed that references thereto should strictly

conform to the terminology agreed and reflected in ECO documents, so as to avoid introducing political considerations and to ensure consistency with the established modalities.

57. The **Chair**, referring to the participation of the Turkish Cypriot side in the Transport Ministerial Meeting, recalled his understanding that the Council had approved its participation in the absence of any objection. The delegation of Kazakhstan, however, clarified that it had not received instructions from its capital regarding acceptance of the proposal and, therefore, was not in a position to convey its approval.

58. The **Secretary General**, referring to the proposed participation of IRU and IsDB, noted their importance as ECO partner organizations and clarified that, while they would already be participating in the New Silk Road Forum in their respective capacities, the Secretariat proposed inviting them to the dialogue on digitalization and financing of the transport sector. He added that the matter could be further coordinated with Kazakhstan as the host country.

59. The **Council** took note of the briefing and agreed to proceed with the proposed organizational arrangements, while maintaining the established ECO nomenclature and modalities concerning observers. On the participation of the Turkish Cypriot side, the Chair noted Kazakhstan's indication that it was awaiting instructions from its capital.

60. The **Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA)** informed the Council that the Secretary General had been invited to the International Festival in Urmia on September 19, 2026 and would be represented by a delegation led by the Deputy Secretary General. As the host authorities would cover travel and accommodation expenses, the Secretariat sought the Council's approval for the mission and payment of the applicable two-day DSA. The Council approved the proposed mission of the Secretariat delegation to the International Festival in Urmia and payment of the applicable two-day DSA, as proposed.

61. The **Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI)** briefed the Council on preparations for the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Dushanbe, noting that the required quorum had been attained while confirmations from some Member States remained pending. Pakistan side informed that its confirmation had just been received and would be shared with the Secretariat. Member States yet to confirm were urged to do so expeditiously to facilitate the host country's preparations.

62. The Representative of **Tajikistan** as the host country, highlighted the significance of convening the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry after a gap of almost two decades and informed the Council of the advanced preparations and substantive agenda for the meeting. It urged the remaining Member States to confirm their participation at the earliest to facilitate finalization of the necessary protocol and organizational arrangements

63. **Türkiye** also recalled the decision of the previous CPR concerning the invitation of the Turkish Cypriot side to the Industry Ministerial Meeting and requested that the invitation be issued promptly. **Tajikistan** reiterated that the matter had been referred to Dushanbe and that it is under consideration pending capital's official response.

64. **Agenda Item No. 10**

Date of the next CPR Meeting

65. The Council decided to hold its next (311th) Meeting on October 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

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

Report

October 21, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

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, H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada** suggested to convene one another additional CPR meeting before the 30th COM in order to include their proposals and share further with certain amendments or comments to the Draft Islamabad Communique receiving from their capital, which will be circulated shortly.

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.

17. The **Council** agreed to hold the next CPR meeting prior to 30th COM meeting with the aim of reviewing and finalizing the Draft Islamabad Communiqué.

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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"

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. 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**

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. 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**

50. 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.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. 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**

56. 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.

57. 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

58. 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.

59. 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.

60. 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.

61. 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.

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

63. 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.

64. 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

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

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: HRSD /2026/118

Priority: Urgent
Date: 5/2/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose herewith **Final Draft Report and Annexures of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction preceded by High Level Working Group Meeting** held on 21-22 January, 2026 in Islamabad.

The Secretariat has further the honour to request the esteemed Member States to kindly convey their views/comments/amendments (if any) on both the **Draft Report of the Ministerial Meeting and updated ECO Regional Framework on DRR (with particular reference to Table II: Explicit Intend to Support DRR**) by 26 February, 2026. In the absence of any comments or proposed amendments received by the above-mentioned deadline, the documents shall be deemed adopted.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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Final Report

The 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction
Preceded by
High Level Working Group Meeting (HLWGM)

21-22 January, 2026

Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Final Report

The 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 22nd January, 2026 in Islamabad, hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the High-Level Working Group Meeting (HLWGM) on 21st January 2026. The Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Host), Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. Moreover, the meeting was also attended by the representative ECO Observer Turkish Cypriot State and international organizations including APDIM, AFAD, JICA and UNICEF. The ECO Secretariat's delegation was headed by the Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan. The list of the participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

High Level Working Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (HLWGM-DRR)

2. The High-Level Working Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (HLWGM on DRR) held on 21st January 2026 discussed and finalized the Draft Agenda and Draft Islamabad Declaration for the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as reviewed implementation status of ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) and Roadmap. Additionally, the HLWG Meeting reviewed proposals, projects and recommendations aimed at improving disaster preparedness and response.

3. The High-Level Working Group Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Husnu Tekin, ECO Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development, and extended a warm welcome to the senior officials and appreciating for their active participation. He also thanked and appreciated the National Disaster Management Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the event, highlighting the importance of this platform in enhancing disaster resilience across the ECO region. Dr. Tekin emphasized ECO's unwavering commitment to disaster risk reduction, particularly addressing the unique challenges faced by the ECO region. He called for collaborative efforts to promote inclusive development and resilience-building initiatives, framing disaster resilience as a fundamental economic and human right essential for safeguarding communities throughout the member nations.

4. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Head of Delegation/Member Disaster Risk Reduction in National Disaster Management Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan extended a most cordial welcome to all delegations and participants from the ECO Member States, as well as to the representatives of regional and international organizations. On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, he conveyed steadfast commitment to fostering regional cooperation in the realm of disaster risk reduction, particularly in light of the increasingly intricate challenges posed by climate-induced risks that confront ECO region. He also mentioned that this forum serves as a vital platform for the thorough review of our technical progress, the building of consensus, and the refinement of key documents, notably the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025–2030 and the draft Islamabad Declaration. He emphasized the necessity of collaboration and mutual support, and assured that Pakistan is wholly dedicated to facilitating open and inclusive discussions aimed at shaping a robust, action-oriented agenda for disaster risk reduction at both regional and

national levels. He said, this gathering not only underscores our shared commitment to fortifying resilience across the ECO region but also sets the stage for constructive deliberations that will significantly advance our collective agenda in disaster risk reduction.

5. During the High-Level Working Group Meeting, the senior officials discussed strategies for disaster risk reduction within the ECO region, sharing proposals aimed at enhancing collaboration and harmonizing frameworks to mitigate disaster risks and impacts. This collective dialogue demonstrated the commitment of Member States to work collaboratively towards building a resilient and sustainable environment through an integrated approach to disaster risk management. The officials reviewed the implementation status of the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) and Roadmap for 2025-2030, aligning with the Sendai Framework's principles and objectives. Additionally, the officials assessed the Islamabad Declaration, emphasizing advancements in disaster risk reduction and outlining priorities such as capacity building, research, data sharing, and international partnerships. They underscored the importance of leveraging modern technologies and best practices, advocating for the integration of innovative solutions like early warning systems and data analytics. In line with the Islamabad Declaration, the officials proposed recommendations for consideration by Ministers and Heads of Delegations, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation, governance mechanisms, and resilience against disasters, culminating in the preparation of the Draft Islamabad Declaration for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.

6. The High-Level Working Group Meeting engaged in substantive deliberations on the proposed thematic clusters that will form the core of the updated regional framework. The discussions were structured around six critical focal areas: enhancing risk governance and institutional strengthening; advancing early warning systems, data management, and hazard monitoring; fostering community-based resilience through inclusive strategies; promoting nature-based solutions and integrated climate adaptation and ecosystem approaches; and strengthening regional cooperation through capacity building and mutual learning. It was further agreed that cross-cutting issues including the protection of vulnerable groups, meaningful youth engagement, and the strategic application of technological innovation—must be systematically integrated across all thematic areas to ensure a coherent and comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction.

10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

Agenda Item No. 1
Inauguration of the Meeting:

7. In his inaugural remarks, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed the Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Heads of Delegations, and representatives of international organizations. Dr. Khan also expressed appreciation for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan for hosting this important event, highlighting their efforts in facilitating collaboration among member states. He underlined ECO's commitment to improving disaster risk management and fostering resilience in the region, acknowledging the vulnerabilities posed by its diverse geological and climatic challenges.

8. The ECO Secretary General underscored the importance of regional cooperation to enhance disaster resilience across member states. The meeting highlighted the need to update the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) for 2025–2030, aligning it with the Sendai Framework. Delegates discussed the necessity of practical measures to strengthen institutions, improve risk information and early warning systems, and integrate disaster risk reduction into public investment and urban planning. The proposed Islamabad Declaration serves as a political commitment to these goals, aiming to foster collaboration among governments, technical agencies, academia, and civil society to ensure that vulnerable communities are prioritized in disaster risk management efforts.

9. Dr. Asad M. Khan emphasized the ECO region's vulnerability to various hazards, including earthquakes, floods, and climate variability, which necessitates a renewed framework that is inclusive and measurable. He highlighted the importance of sharing expertise—such as Pakistan's proficiency in flood management and Türkiye's experience with earthquakes—aiming to build collective capacities to address disasters effectively. He stressed the importance of operationalizing the updated ECORFDRR, noting that the Islamabad Declaration reflects a unified approach to disaster risk reduction. This approach ensures that all member states collaborate effectively to safeguard development gains and enhance resilience in the face of increasing risks. By working together, we can build a stronger foundation for mitigating disasters and protecting our communities. His statement is attached as **Annex-II**.

10. H.E. Mr. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan warmly welcomed the delegations from ECO Member States, and representatives of regional and international organizations and expressed his gratitude for their active participation in the 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Islamabad. He emphasized the shared commitment to strengthening regional solidarity and collaborative action against the increasing disaster and climate risks affecting societies and economies across the ECO region. Acknowledging the diverse geographies and interconnected risks present, he highlighted the importance of the ECO platform for fostering dialogue, trust, and practical cooperation. He also thanked the senior officials for their efforts and discussions during the High-Level Working Group, which served as a crucial opportunity to reaffirm collective visions, endorse strategic priorities, and enhance the regional framework for disaster risk reduction in alignment with global commitments. He noted the significant progress made in drafting and finalizing the Islamabad Declaration, which outlines key actions for member states, as well as the comprehensive review of the ECORFDRR document. He expressed hope for the full implementation of these initiatives across the ECO region, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to ensure resilience and preparedness in the face of increasing disaster risks. The Chairman expressed confidence that the deliberations would yield meaningful outcomes, contributing to a safer and more resilient ECO region.

Agenda Item No. 2
Election of the Chairman:

11. In accordance with the ECO Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the "10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction".

12. H.E. Mr. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressed his gratitude to the ECO Member States for electing him as the Chairman of this significant event. He reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling his responsibilities during the Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Adoption of the Agenda:

13. In the absence of any objection, the meeting adopted its agenda unanimously as proposed by the ECO Secretariat and finalized by the preceding High-Level Working Group Meeting (HLWGM) on 21 January, 2026. Copy of agenda and annotated agenda of the Ministerial Meeting is as **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No.4
Statements by the Ministers/Heads of Delegation of the Member States and representatives of regional and international organizations

14. Under this agenda item, the honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations, and esteemed representatives from the invited regional and international organizations delivered their statements, sharing valuable knowledge and best practices aimed at mitigating disaster risks in the ECO region. In their opening remarks, they expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for graciously hosting this important meeting.

15. The Heads of Delegations emphasized the critical importance of enhancing regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and reaffirmed their commitment to the effective implementation of the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR). They acknowledged the necessity for robust capacity building, extensive research, and collaborative efforts among multiple stakeholders to address the challenges posed by disasters. They recognized the pivotal role of innovative technologies, including early warning systems and advanced data analytics, in bolstering DRR initiatives. Furthermore, they highlighted the significance of inclusivity and gender-responsive governance within DRR strategies, asserting that these elements are essential for the successful updating and execution of the ECORFDRR

16. In their statements, they emphasized the urgent need for systematic and coordinated disaster risk management within the ECO region, which remains particularly vulnerable to natural disasters exacerbated by climate change. A commitment to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was highlighted, along with the integration of disaster risk management into national development strategies. Support was expressed for the update of the ECO Framework Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction for 2025–2030, advocating for strengthened regional early warning systems, enhanced cooperation in scientific research, and capacity-building for civil protection authorities. The participants concluded with the hope that the outcomes of the meeting, including the draft Islamabad Declaration, would significantly contribute to enhancing the resilience of ECO member countries against natural disasters.

17. Further, they articulated the importance of transitioning from reactive disaster response to proactive, risk-informed management, particularly in light of the evolving challenges posed by climate change. The necessity for strong institutions and reliable data systems to support coordinated efforts in disaster risk reduction was underscored. A commitment to implementing the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) for 2025–2030 and the Islamabad Declaration was reaffirmed, viewing these as essential tools for enhancing disaster governance and regional cooperation. Furthermore, offers for regional collaboration were outlined, including the establishment of a Regional Innovation Hub and the promotion of joint training exercises to strengthen preparedness. The importance of inclusive approaches that empower women, youth, and vulnerable groups was emphasized, alongside the promotion of nature-based solutions and improved cross-border coordination. The delegations reaffirmed a dedication to constructive engagement with all stakeholders to achieve measurable improvements in resilience across the ECO region.

18. They also highlighted the significant challenges posed by natural disasters, which have resulted in substantial economic losses and damage to infrastructure. Prompt emergency recovery efforts were initiated, leading to the commissioning of new residential units in affected areas. The importance of international cooperation in disaster risk reduction was emphasized, with gratitude expressed to development partners for their support in implementing medium-term programs aimed at protecting populations and territories from emergencies. Active participation in regional initiatives was noted, including a recent forum where an Action Plan for disaster risk reduction was adopted. Furthermore, ongoing efforts to promote regional collaboration on early warning systems were highlighted, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing resilience and reducing disaster risks across the region.

19. Further, they discussed to advance a unified regional agenda for resilience, grounded in the understanding that transboundary disasters demand collective action and acknowledged the severe vulnerability of the ECO region to a wide spectrum of escalating hazards, from floods and earthquakes to glacial lake outbursts and sandstorms, exacerbated by climate change. In response, the deliberations focused on translating the global commitments of the Sendai Framework into a concrete regional strategy, culminating in the adoption of the historic Islamabad Declaration and the updated ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2025–2030). These foundational documents establish a actionable five-year roadmap, prioritizing risk-informed governance, the integration of advanced technology and data systems into early warning, and the establishment of cooperative mechanisms such as a Regional Innovation Hub and establishment of a Regional Seismic Data Centre in order to exchange real time seismic data among ECO member countries as agreed in the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR in Istanbul in 2021, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat to foster resilient infrastructure planning and knowledge exchange.

20. Heads of Delegation unanimously highlighted that building resilience must be an inclusive and forward-looking endeavor. They emphasized that effective disaster risk reduction is fundamentally incomplete unless it prioritizes and empowers the most vulnerable, including children, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. This commitment was operationalized through the endorsement of child-sensitive approaches and the integration of cross-cutting issues like gender and community engagement across all thematic areas. The meeting strongly recommended that financing mechanisms and social protection

systems be explicitly designed to protect at-risk communities. Furthermore, aligning with the global theme of empowering the next generation, the discussions championed youth as central actors in policy-making, leadership, and innovation, ensuring the DRR agenda is intergenerational and sustainable. Copies of their statements are attached as **Annex-IV**.

21. Under this agenda item, the ECO Observers and International Organizations also delivered their statement and highlighted the critical importance of strengthening regional cooperation and coordination to effectively address the complex and evolving disaster risk landscape within the ECO region. Characterized by a high degree of vulnerability to a wide spectrum of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, droughts, and landslides, the region faces intensifying challenges due to climate change and rapid urbanization. The consensus reached emphasized a decisive shift from reactive response mechanisms towards proactive, preventive, and risk-informed governance. This strategic reorientation prioritizes the integration of advanced technologies, scientific data, and evidence-based analysis into all phases of disaster management, with a particular focus on enhancing early warning systems, fostering anticipatory action, and building resilient infrastructure.

22. Furthermore, the Observers and International Organizations underscored a central theme of the discussions: the imperative to place the most vulnerable populations, especially children, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, at the heart of all disaster risk reduction efforts. The meeting affirmed that resilience is fundamentally incomplete unless these groups are empowered as central actors in preparedness, policy-making, and community-based action. This child-centered and inclusive approach necessitates the development of tailored communication tools, the strengthening of safe and resilient social services like education and healthcare, and the active engagement of youth in leadership and innovation. The dialogue also highlighted the necessity of ensuring that financing mechanisms and investments in resilience are explicitly designed to protect and prioritize these vulnerable communities.

23. Finally, the gathering was noted by Observers and International Organizations as culminating in a firm regional commitment to translate policy frameworks into tangible, collaborative action. Participants highlighted the significant potential for joint capacity-building programs, harmonized methodologies for risk assessment, and the shared development of operational tools to improve regional preparedness and interoperability. The exchange of technical expertise, the conduct of regular joint training and simulation exercises, and the facilitation of academic and research collaboration were identified as key drivers for building collective resilience. By fostering a spirit of shared responsibility, scientific solidarity, and a whole-of-society approach, the ECO region aims to move decisively from commitment to implementation, safeguarding development gains and building a safer, more resilient future for all its communities. Copies of their statements are attached as **Annex-V**.

Agenda Item No.5

Consideration of proposals reviewed by HLWGM on Disaster Risk Reduction on ECO Regional Framework and implementation of projects

24. Under this agenda item, the esteemed Ministers and Heads of Delegations engaged in a thorough examination of the proposals and projects reviewed by the High-Level Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (HLWGM). Their discussions centered on the implementation of initiatives outlined in the updated ECO Regional Framework on Disaster

Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) for the period 2025-2030. A comprehensive review of the current implementation status of the ECORFDRR and its accompanying Road Map was conducted, highlighting both significant achievements and areas that require further attention. The Ministers emphasized the necessity to revise and update the existing ECORFDRR to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework, thereby effectively addressing the evolving challenges posed by disasters. This collaborative effort underscored the commitment of the member states to enhance resilience and foster cooperation in disaster risk reduction. A copy of the updated ECORFDRR is attached as **Annex-VI**.

25. The 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction reviewed and endorsed the joint project between the ECO and UNICEF Tajikistan, entitled "Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness." In its deliberations, the Meeting further recommended the development of analogous animated materials specifically tailored for children with disabilities. This child-centered initiative, which operates within the public information pillar of the ECO Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECOFDRR), constitutes the first phase of a dedicated two-year joint programme with Tajikistan UNICEF.

Agenda Item No.6
Adoption of the Islamabad Declaration

26. The Meeting reviewed the Islamabad Declaration and instructed the Secretariat to convey to the Member States for their final views/comments/amendments (if any), and decided that the same will be considered as adopted in case of no objection or any amendments received within two weeks' silence procedure from the date of circulation. Further, the meeting requested the Member States to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the Ministerial Meeting as reflected in the Islamabad Declaration after its adoption. Copy of Islamabad Declaration is enclosed as **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item No.7
Adoption of the Final Report

27. The meeting instructed the Secretariat to draft the meeting report to convey to the Member States for their final views/comments/amendments (if any), and decided the same will be considered as adopted in case of no objection or any amendments received within two weeks' silence procedure from the date of circulation. The meeting requested the Member States to ensure effective implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting as reflected in the Report after its adoption.

Agenda Item No.8
Date and venue of the 11th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

28. The Ministerial Meeting instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with Member States through diplomatic channel regarding hosting of the 11th Ministerial Meeting preceded by HLWGM on Disaster Risk Reduction, with the objective of further promoting the region's disaster risk reduction agenda and reinforcing the commitment to initiatives that foster resilience throughout the ECO region.

Agenda Item No.9
Any other business:

29. No any other agenda item was raised by the meeting.

Agenda Item No.10
Vote of thanks and closing remarks:

30. The ECO Secretary General thanked the Government of Pakistan and extended his heartfelt congratulations to the NDMA and its team for the excellent organization of this meeting. He stated that the successful gathering of high-level representatives from member states underscores the importance of our collaborative efforts in this vital area and highlighted that our shared culture, history, and economies create a strong bond, and emphasized that we must recognize that we also share the impact of disasters; for example, tremors from earthquakes in Tajikistan are felt in Islamabad, which highlights the need for cooperation across the ECO region. He noted that this meeting has facilitated the updating of the ECO Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, guiding our priorities for the next five years and shaping a new ECO vision and strategic goals for economic cooperation over the next decade. The ECO Secretary General also pointed out that the Islamabad Declaration lays out a clear agenda for our work leading to the 11th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR, and expressed anticipation for collaborating with member states to implement it. Additionally, he mentioned that we have endorsed specific project proposals for the Secretariat to develop in partnership with international collaborators, reflecting a strong desire among member states to share best practices. In conclusion, the ECO Secretary General remarked that this has been a substantive meeting with fruitful outcomes, and he thanked Pakistan once again for hosting and all participants for their valuable contributions.

31. Chief Guest, Dr. Musadeq Masood Malik, the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while thanking to the participants, emphasized the critical importance of collaboration among member states to address the urgent challenges posed by disasters in the region. He said, the impacts of climate change and natural hazards transcend borders, making it essential for us to unite in implementing the updated ECO Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. He also mentioned that this framework will guide our priorities over the next five years and assist in formulating a collective strategy for economic cooperation and resilience. Dr. Musadeq urged all member states to endorse the specific project proposals discussed, fostering a spirit of unity and shared responsibility. By leveraging our collective knowledge and resources, we can develop effective early warning systems and innovative solutions to mitigate risks and enhance our preparedness. Let us commit to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our communities, ensuring that we are better equipped to face future challenges. He thanked all participants for their invaluable contributions and dedication to this vital cause.

Sideline
Meetings Meeting between Chairman NDMA of Pakistan and the Head of the Tajikistan's Delegation

32. Chairman NDMA and Major General Isozoda Sulaymon Umar, Deputy Chairman of Emergency Situations & Civil Defense, and Colonel Sherzoda Jura, Deputy Head of the Committee's IC Department of Tajikistan, on 21 January 2026, on the sidelines of the 10th ECO

Ministerial Meeting on DRR at NDMA Headquarters, Islamabad. The discussion revolved around the following points:

- **Strategic Regional Cooperation (ECO Framework):** The Chairman NDMA, Pakistan emphasized the necessity for ECO nations to formalize a unified Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). He proposed developing a common narrative on climate change and DRR to amplify the regional voice in international forums.
- **Technological Integration & Early Warning Systems (EWS):** Technological integration has emerged as a cornerstone of modern disaster risk management, underscoring the critical importance of EWS in enhancing regional resilience. In this context, the need for a state-of-the-art, ECO-wide EWS was strongly advocated to enable real-time data sharing, foster cross-border learning, and improve coordinated responses to emerging threats. Pakistan's experience was highlighted as a significant case in point, reflecting a strategic shift from a traditionally reactive posture to a more proactive and preventive approach. This transformation is anchored in the advanced, technology-driven capabilities of the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC), which serves as a central hub for timely information dissemination, risk assessment, and coordinated emergency response.
- **Bilateral Cooperation & Capacity Building:** Bilateral cooperation and capacity building were emphasized as essential pillars for strengthening regional disaster preparedness and response. In this regard, the development of a joint disaster response framework between Pakistani and Tajik teams was proposed to enhance interoperability and coordinated action during crises. As a first step, Tajik disaster management teams were invited to Pakistan to benefit from knowledge-sharing on proactive risk management approaches, followed by a reciprocal visit by Pakistani experts to Tajikistan to further deepen institutional linkages. To operationalize this cooperation, it was also proposed to conduct a Comprehensive Integrated Simulation Exercise (CISE), bringing together military personnel, technical experts, and relevant NGOs, with the aim of synchronizing disaster management plans and improving collective readiness for future contingencies.
- **Formal Agreements & Institutional Links:** The Chairman committed to sharing a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize bilateral projects and emphasized maintaining close liaison through the respective embassies in Islamabad and Dushanbe.
- **Future Engagements**: Maj Gen Isozoda expressed gratitude for the hospitality and commended Pakistan's establishment of world-class disaster management facilities. The Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan formally invited the Tajik delegation to participate in the Pakistan Resilience Expo 2026 in April.

Meeting between Chairman NDMA of Pakistan and the Head of the Kyrgyz Republic Delegation

33. Minutes of the meeting held between the Chairman NDMA and the Kyrgyz Republic's Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations Ernest Zhusupov and Mr. Bekzat Myzrzamamatov, Leading Specialist External Relations, on 21 January 2026, on the sidelines of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR at NDMA Headquarters, Islamabad, are summarized below:

- **Capacity Building & Technical Exchange:** The Chairman offered to lead technical exchange and capacity-building initiatives for Kyrgyz disaster management professionals, utilizing the specialized resources of NDMA's Center of Excellence. Proposed a dedicated program focused on the National Emergencies Operation Center

(NEOC), providing insights into Pakistan's tech-driven, proactive disaster monitoring and management systems. Shared the concept of Pakistan's Comprehensive Integrated Simulation Exercise (CISE) as a framework for joint drills to synchronize military, civil, and technical response efforts. Proposed a Joint Task Force for Emergency Rescue Operations to assist each other and facilitate support to other countries. The Deputy Minister welcomed these initiatives and confirmed the proposals will be shared with higher officials, with outcomes communicated to Pakistan.

- **Strategic Invitations & Diplomatic Recognition**: The Chairman extended a verbal invitation to the Kyrgyz Republic to attend the Pakistan Resilience Expo in April 2026, with a formal invitation to be dispatched through diplomatic channels. The Deputy Minister commended the Chairman, NDMA for the exceptional hospitality and praised Pakistan's progressive Disaster Management efforts, citing them as a regional benchmark for excellence.

34. While thanking the Member States for their active participation, the Chairman announced the closing of the Meeting.

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Economic Cooperation Organization
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No: T /2026/348

Priority: Normal
Date: 5/5/2026
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 Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith the Reports (with their relevant enclosures) of the **7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism preceded by the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group on Tourism** hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27-29 April 2026 in Shusha, Azerbaijan.

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

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Report of
The 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Tourism

Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan
(28 April 2026)

REPORT

The 9th High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Tourism was held on 28 April 2026 in Shusha, Azerbaijan. It was hosted by the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting was attended by the Republic of Azerbaijan (host), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The ECO Secretariat was also present at the meeting. A comprehensive list of participants is provided as **Annex I.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Inauguration of the Meeting

2. Mr. Jalil Malikov, the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the host of the meeting, officially inaugurated the session and delivered his welcome remarks. He highlighted Shusha's cultural and historical significance for Azerbaijan and expressed pride in its selection as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026. He noted Azerbaijan welcomed over 2.5 million international visitors in 2025, with 500,000 arrivals in early 2026, contributing 2.8% to the national GDP. Mr. Malikov also emphasized strong ties with ECO member states and Azerbaijan's active role in tourism initiatives, including hosting key events such as the first meeting of the ECO Tourism Educational Institutions, the first ECO Tour Operators Forum and the first meeting of ECO Silk Road Task Force.

3. Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash, Deputy Secretary General for ECO welcomed the delegates to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to the host for the hospitality extended to the delegations. He highlighted Shusha's cultural heritage as a symbol of the diverse Karabakh region. He mentioned that the meeting aimed at evaluating the progress on Erzurum Declaration of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. Ambassador Mukash noted two documents namely The Compendium of Best Practices for ECO Tourism and Policy Brief for Diversifying Intra Region Tourism would be among the documents to be elaborated by the meeting. Moreover, he expressed draft Roadmap for Expansion of Tourism Services for 2026-2030 as well as draft Shusha Declaration and nomination of Aktau as the ECO Tourism Capital 2030 will be deliberated by the delegates. He wishes success for the meeting expressing his appreciation for the contribution of the delegation to the events.

Agenda Item No. 2
Election of the Chairman

4. Mr. Jalil Malikov, the representative of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (the host), was elected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Statement by the Chairman

5. After being elected, the Chairman delivered a brief remark thanking the delegates for endorsing him as the Chair of the meeting and moved to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 4
Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Agenda of the Meeting was adopted. The agenda is enclosed as **Annex-II.**

Agenda Item No. 5
Appointment of Drafting Committee

7. An open-ended Drafting Committee, consisting of delegates from the Member States and representatives from the ECO Secretariat, was appointed to prepare the report for the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6
Preparation for the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

a) **Agenda of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism:**
The Agenda of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism was drafted by the HLEG Meeting. Mr. Aftab-ur Rehman Rana, from Pakistani delegation asked about delivering short presentation on tourism investment opportunities during the 'Any Other Business' item within the Ministerial Meeting. The draft agenda is enclosed as **Annex-III.**

b) **Review of the Decisions of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism**
Mr. Hasan Tufan, acting Director for Tourism at the ECO Secretariat, briefed the Meeting on the implementation of the decisions of the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held in Erzurum, Türkiye, on 26 April 2025. It is enclosed as **Annex-IV.**

c) **Consideration of the pending documents for approval**
The meeting discussed the previously circulated two documents, namely draft Compendium of Best Practices for Ecotourism in the ECO region and the draft Policy Brief on Diversifying Intra-Regional Tourism. Mr. Tufan provided background information on these documents and Member States delivered remarks on their final thoughts regarding those documents by endorsing them for the launch at the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.

d) **Elaboration on the draft Roadmap for Expansion of Tourism Services (2026-2030) (RETS-2030) – Uzbekistan's Proposal**
Mr. Hasan Tufan gave briefed the council on the development of the RETS-2030 and the delegations shared their ideas and proposals regarding the content of the RETS-2030 document which was reviewed by the 1st ECO-ACT Meeting held in Tashkent on 26 November 2025. Upon the proposal of the delegation of Pakistan, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan on inclusion of agreed specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to follow up the progress on the implementation of the RETS-2030, Mr. Tufan acknowledged the need for KPIs regarding the initiatives included in the draft roadmap and explained that the ECO-ACT would be taking the role of monitoring the progress of the roadmap. Mr. Tufan noted that the Secretariat will work on forming appropriate indicators to assess the success of each initiative before the next ECO-ACT meeting.

Mr. Doston Muminzhonov representing Uzbekistan, suggested that Member States could report annually on their progress regarding the initiatives, allowing for accountability and tracking of developments.

Mr. Sardar Ilyas Khan also praised the development of such document and suggested focusing on execution strategies, particularly through talent exchange programs among the Member States. Additionally, he emphasized the need for joint collaboration and promotional activities, proposing incentives such as discounts for the interested parties to enhance participation in the events.

e) Consideration of Nomination for the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030.
The representative of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Giniyat briefed on their nomination for Aktau to carry the ECO Tourism Capital 2030 title and highlighting its growth in attracting tourists and its multidimensional tourism offerings. Following the preliminary support of the delegations, **Aktau** in the Republic of Kazakhstan was endorsed for the submission to the Ministerial Meeting to be selected as the ECO Tourism Capital for the year 2030. The final decision will be made in the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.

f) Drafting the Shusha Declaration for Adoption in the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism
Shusha Declaration was drafted by the Meeting for the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. The representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye proposed amendments and the new paragraphs on the initial draft. Ms. H. Gülşen Birinci from the delegation of the Republic of Türkiye proposed to add one item regarding the development of regional cultural heritage platform. Mr. Soheil Kheiri from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, proposed to add paragraphs on strengthening cooperation in preserving historic and cultural assets, underlining the health tourism, facilitating tourism visas among Member States and the protecting the cultural sites. The latest version of the draft Declaration is enclosed as **Annex-V.**

Agenda Item No.7
Any other business

8. Under this agenda item, Mr. Bahrillo Mukimov, the delegate of the Republic of Tajikistan took the floor and informed the audience that Tajikistan considers the nomination of the city of Khujand as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2031 and the relevant information for formal application will be sent in due course. Mr. Bahrillo Mukimov also mentioned that there is a possibility for Tajikistan to host the 11th Meeting of the HLEG Meeting in 2028 and Ms. Gulshat Bakyyeva from Turkmenistan raised their interest in hosting such meeting in the same year on the occasion of the celebrations of Mary as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2028. Mr. Hasan Tufan explained that the hosting of ECO events shall be informed by diplomatic channels. Mr. Soheil Kheiri from Iranian delegation also asked about the possibility of delivering a presentation by their Head of Delegation on damage for historical sites in his country on the agenda item 'Any Other Business' of the Ministerial Meeting. The Chair welcomed the comments and proposals of the delegates asking further clarification and follow-up by the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No.8
Date and venue of the Next Meeting

9. For the date and venue of the 10th Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group on Tourism, Mr. Aftab-ur Rehman Rana took the floor and mentioned that Pakistan has intention to host the next ECO Ministerial Meeting together with the 10th HLEG Meeting on the occasion of celebrating Lahore which will carry the title of ECO Tourism Capital 2027. The exact information for the host of next meeting will be circulated among the Member States through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item No.9
Consideration and endorsement of the Report of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

10. The report of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism was drafted and endorsed by the participants.

Agenda Item No.10
Closing and Vote of Thanks

11. The delegates expressed their gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly the State Tourism Agency, for hosting the meeting and for the exemplary arrangements made. They also commended the effective chairmanship of Mr. Jalil Malikov, from the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the ECO Secretariat, for their role in facilitating the meeting and promoting tourism cooperation among the Member States.

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The Draft Report of the
7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan
(29 April 2026)

DRAFT REPORT

The 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism was held on 29 April 2026 in Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting was hosted by the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting was attended by the Republic of Azerbaijan (host), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The ECO Secretariat also attended it. The list of participants is enclosed as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item No. 1
Inauguration of the Meeting and Welcome Remarks

i. Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General
ii. Inaugural Statement by H.E Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2. In his opening statement, ECO Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, welcomes delegates to the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Shusha, the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026. He extended his sincere appreciation to all Member States for their steadfast commitment and to the Government of Azerbaijan for their exceptional hospitality. Ambassador underlined the importance of tourism for regional integration and briefly explained the recent progress for the tourist flow into the region as well as the achievements of the initiatives made since the previous Ministerial Meeting. The detailed statement is attached as (**Annex-II**).

3. H.E. Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, the Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, welcomed the delegates to Shusha city, the ECO Tourism Capital of 2026, expressing Azerbaijan's commitment to the ECO tourism cooperation mechanisms and the role of the tourism sector in the economy of Azerbaijan. The detailed statement is attached as (**Annex-III**)

4. An introductory video for Shusha, which is ECO Tourism Capital 2026, was showcased. Following that, Ambassador Khan presented the official certificate designating Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital 2026 to H.E. Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Agenda Item No.2
Election of the Chairman

5. The Meeting unanimously elected H.E. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to chair the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Meeting adopted its agenda, which is enclosed as (**Annex-IV**).

Agenda Item No. 4
Statements by Heads of Delegation

7. Under this agenda item, the Ministers/Heads of delegations of Member States delivered their statements to update the current developments, policies and activities towards tourism sector in their respective countries and ECO cooperation in the field of tourism. The available statements are enclosed as (**Annex-V).**

Agenda Item No. 5
Consideration and endorsement of the 9th HLEG Meeting Report

8. The Meeting considered the report of the 9th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Tourism and endorsed it. The Meeting appreciated the work done by the HLEG Meeting under the competent chairmanship of Mr. Jalil Malikov, Head of the International Relations Department of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The report is attached as (**Annex-VI).**

Agenda Item No. 6
Launch of Compendium of Best Practices on Ecotourism and Policy Brief for Tourism Diversification

9. Under this agenda item, the Chair briefed the delegates, stating that the documents 'Compendium of Best Practices on Ecotourism in the ECO Region' and the 'Policy Brief on Diversifying Intra-Region Tourism' have been officially endorsed by the Member States and will be published on the ECO Tourism Website. The Chair urged all delegations to utilize the information and recommendations contained in these documents, highlighting the significance of their guidance for the relevant authorities. The documents were officially launched during the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7
Selection of ECO Tourism Capital 2030

10. A brief explanation was made to the Meeting about the nomination of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Aktau to carry the title of ECO Tourism Capital for 2030. The 9th HLEG Meeting regarding the Selection of the ECO Tourism Capital 2030 proposed the city of **Aktau** as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030.

11. No objection was raised by the ECO Member States, and the decision was approved by the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. Therefore, **Aktau** from **Kazakhstan** was selected as the ECO Tourism Capital for the year 2030.

Agenda Item No.8
Adoption of the Shusha Declaration:

12. The Meeting adopted the Shusha Declaration. It is attached as **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item No. 9
Any other business

13. Under this agenda item, Head of Pakistan Delegation, H.E. Mr. Sardar Ilyas Khan, took the floor and delivered a brief presentation on the tourism investment opportunities in Pakistan. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan,

H.E. Mr. Mojtaba Demirchiloo, also presented the information regarding the damage to tourism and cultural assets of Iran impacted by the recent developments.

Agenda Item No. 10
Date and Venue of the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

14. H.E. Mr. Sardar Ilyas Khan expressed Pakistan's willingness to host the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. Date and venue of the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism will be shared with the Member States through diplomatic correspondence.

Agenda Item No. 11
Consideration and Adoption of the Report *(prepared by the High-Level Expert Group on Tourism)*

15. The Meeting adopted its report.

Agenda Item No. 12
Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

18. The representatives of the ECO Member States expressed their gratitude to H.E. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and his team for conducting the meeting efficiently and for his outstanding chairmanship of the Meeting. They also expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to the host, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular the State Tourism Agency, for excellent arrangements and successful organization of the Meeting.

19. The delegates also appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretariat for preparing the documents and assisting the host in organizing the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, preceded by the 9th HLEG Meeting on Tourism.

20. In his closing remarks, the ECO Secretary General thanked the Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of Azerbaijan and the head of delegations for their contributions to the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. He underscored the commitment to making the ECO region a premier tourism destination, resulting in sustainable economic growth by 2035. He also urged Member States to timely endorsement of the Roadmap for Expansion of Tourism Services 2026-2030, as well as other ECO tourism initiatives, and congratulated Kazakhstan for the designation of Aktau as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030.

21. The Chairman expressed its appreciation to all the representatives and the participants and declared the closing of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 13
Group Photo

22. The group photo was taken following the closure of the meeting.

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No: EME /2026/551

Priority: Normal
Date: 29/6/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to refer to the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the 8th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment / Senior Officials Meeting, held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 2–3 June 2026.

In pursuance of the task assigned by the Ministerial Meeting, the ECO Secretariat finalized the reports of both meetings and has further the honour to convey them enclosed herewith for the information and records of the Member States.

The Report of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment comprises, as integral parts, the final adopted versions of the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation, the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030), the ECO Work Program on Climate Change (2026-2030), and the ECO Work Program on Biodiversity (2026-2030). The Report of the 8th Working Group Meeting on Environment / Senior Officials Meeting is also enclosed for reference.

The Secretariat will highly appreciate if the relevant authorities could take note of the reports while ensuring their dissemination to and rigorous follow up by the appropriate national stakeholders.

The Secretariat of ECO 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.

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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REPORT

of

the 8th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment, acted as the Senior Officials Meeting of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

2 June 2026

Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan

REPORT

1. The 8th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment, acted as the Senior Officials Meeting of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment was held on 2 June 2026 in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegations comprising senior-level officials from the following eight ECO Member States participated at the meeting: Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan (Host). The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) also attended the meeting at the invitation of the Host Authorities. The ECO Secretariat delegation participated throughout. *The list of participants is attached as* ***Annex-I****.*

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

2. Dr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment (EME) of the ECO Secretariat, welcomed the participants and extended his profound appreciation to the Republic of Uzbekistan for its warm hospitality and resolve in regional environmental stewardship. He noted with appreciation the overwhelming participation of the Member States at the meeting, which vividly manifested their resolve and dedication to regional environmental cooperation. While setting the scene for the meeting and briefing on its heavy agenda, he emphasized the importance of the Working Group, acted as the Senior Officials Meeting in laying ground for tangible outcomes of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment. EME Director further highlighted the progress made since the last Working Group and the urgency of translating regional environmental commitments into actionable frameworks.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairperson

3. In pursuance of the ECO Rules of Procedure, Dr. Doniyor Turgunov, Director of Hydro-meteorological Scientific Research Institute from the Republic of Uzbekistan, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson to preside over the 8th Working Group on Environment / Senior Officials Meeting.

4. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson expressed sincere appreciation to the delegates for participation and ECO Secretariat for its diligent efforts in organizing the meeting. He underscored the Host Country's commitment to advancing regional environmental cooperation and called for constructive dialogue to ensure successful outcomes for the Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Meeting considered and unanimously adopted the proposed Agenda.

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointment of Drafting Committee

6. The Meeting assigned the ECO Secretariat to draft a report of the Meeting and disseminate it among the Member States through official channels.

Agenda Item No. 5

Statements and Presentations by Member States

7. The Chairperson of the meeting gave the floor to the representatives of the Member States under this agenda item to deliver their statements/speeches in alphabetical order. While extending their heartfelt gratitude to the Republic of Uzbekistan for its exceptional arrangements and warm hospitality, the delegates provided updates on their national policies, initiatives and development programs on environment. During the deliberations, several key themes emerged.

8. Delegates **reaffirmed environmental protection as a global responsibility and reported national efforts, most notably the expansion of green spaces and sustainable resource management**. On **national conservation and climate action**, several countries announced the establishment of state nature resorts and sanctuaries, ongoing work on new national parks and a deal based on a world model, as well as the creation of a state commission on climate change and active participation in international environmental organizations.

9. On **circular economy and industrial development**, the Member States highlighted the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, called for regional dialogue among key stakeholders to identify concrete initiatives for circular transformation, and stressed resource efficiency and job creation through the green agenda. Regarding regional project implementation and stakeholder engagement, it was noted that a new project is under discussion beginning with stakeholder identification at the regional level, with a consultative approach to identify like-minded countries, and that pilot projects would benefit both individual countries and the region (see paragraphs 23-25 hereinunder for details).

10. Concerns were raised about the **decline of the Caspian Sea's capacity and its ecological implications**, with calls for enhanced cooperation at national and international levels, and a transition to a circular economy with proper resource recognition. A delegate criticized international organizations for failing to defend

peace and security, highlighted the environmental impact of military operations and their carbon footprint, and called for more interaction, trust, and regional cooperation to address the climate crisis.

11. The host country, Uzbekistan, presented its national environmental agenda, including efforts to expand climate change education, its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, and ongoing reforms in waste management and biodiversity conservation.

12. On **land degradation and climate change adaptation**, national efforts in land degradation negotiation and integration, development of national land codes and classification systems, and strong support for regional cooperation were reported. A **concept for a regional early warning system for sand and dust storms among the ECO Member States** was presented by Uzbekistan, including the establishment of a regional center, a coordinating council, and a technical working group, with a call for a unified approach to address the environmental and economic impacts.

13. Finally, emphasis was placed on **capacity building and sharing successful implementation cases**, with support for regional initiatives. The proposals for capacity building and practical application of ecological practices were actively contributed. The Chairperson thanked all delegations for their comprehensive and action-oriented contributions, noting that the rich exchange of national perspectives would inform the deliberations of the Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6

Endorsement of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its Thematic Annexes

14. Under this agenda item, the EME Director presented an overview of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its Thematic Annexes, a foundational document designed to strategically address environmental challenges through enhanced regional cooperation. He characterized the Cooperation Framework as an overarching, inclusive document navigating on environmental cooperation, while its Thematic Annexes – Work Program on Climate Change and Work Program on Biodiversity envisage the key priorities for regional action in the field of environment. The Framework underscores the vital role of a healthy environment in sustainable economic development and acknowledges pressing issues such as biodiversity loss and climate change resulting from human activities.

15. Representatives of the Member States conducted a detailed, page-by-page review of the draft Framework and its two thematic annexes – the Work Program on Climate Change (2026-2030) and the Work Program on Biodiversity (2026-2030). A great number of amendments were proposed by delegations, reflecting diverse national perspectives, priorities, and legal frameworks.

16. Following the lengthy discussions, during which each amendment was carefully considered and debated, the meeting reached consensus on a revised set of texts. All proposed amendments that received broad support were incorporated into the final versions of the Framework and the Work Programs. The Meeting concluded that the resulting documents represent a balanced and collectively owned regional strategy.

17. The Senior Officials recommended that the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment endorse the Cooperation Framework and its annexes as finalized.

Agenda Item No. 7

ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation (HLDPE)

18. The meeting further focused on the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation (HLDPE). The Chair informed the Meeting that the inaugural HLDPE meeting had been successfully held on 23 April 2026 in Astana (Kazakhstan), on the margins of the Regional Ecological Summit.

19. A draft Roadmap for the HLDPE was presented, outlining operational modalities, thematic priorities, and a proposed schedule of at least one in-person or hybrid meeting annually, complemented by virtual thematic sessions. Priority areas envisage air quality management, circular economy practices, land degradation, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.

20. The chairmanship of the HLDPE will rotate annually among ECO Member States, beginning with Uzbekistan. Anticipated outcomes entail consensus-based recommendations to be presented to the ECO Working Group on Environment and subsequently to the ECO Ministerial Meeting. Thematic working groups will be established to facilitate practical cooperation.

21. While appreciating the National Committee of Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan for successful convening of the First Meeting of HLDPE, EME Director highlighted this platform as a promising advisory mechanism where national perspectives meet the latest scientific, technical, and policy knowledge through multi-stakeholder approach to find regional solutions to common challenges and explore ways to enhance environmental cooperation.

22. The Working Group / Senior Officials Meeting supported the draft Roadmap and recommended its finalization and endorsement by the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

Agenda Item No. 8

Follow-up on the Implementation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE)

23. The Meeting conducted a comprehensive review of progress under the RESCUE

Initiative, launched at Climate COP29, held in Baku (Azerbaijan) in November 2024, with the EME Director presenting an update on ongoing efforts to engage Member States and stakeholders in its seamless advancement over the past period. Thanking UNIDO for its unwavering support for ECO's circular transition endeavours, the EME Director briefed that the collaboration with UNIDO progressed toward the elaboration of a detailed project concept titled "Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region" for launching the needs assessment/feasibility study. This is the critical initial step for: 1. Identification of transition potential of our region to a resource-efficient and circular economy; 2. Establishment of an operational stakeholder network for circular economy foresight and implementation across our region. EME Director thus called upon the Member States to leverage this partnership opportunity and take concrete steps to advance RESCUE Initiative, with a focus on implementation timelines, resource mobilization, and tangible, measurable results.

24. During the discussion, Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Industrial Development Expert from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) underscored that UNIDO's mandate on industry greening, resource efficiency, and circular economy overlaps significantly with the objectives of RESCUE. Making a reference to the concept note of the project entitled "Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region", designed by UNIDO, she highlighted the value of the foresight methodology as a tool to identify specific value chains and industries that can transition toward circularity more easily, more quickly, and with fewer resources. She further explained that UNIDO's pursuit of industry greening not only creates jobs but also delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits. Supporting this initiative through the ECO Secretariat, she emphasized, would allow the region to benefit from UNIDO's expertise accumulated in different parts of the world, bringing best practices and tailored solutions to the ECO region. She expressed appreciation in advance for the support of ECO Member States for this project.

25. Following these interventions, Member States were encouraged for continuous engagement with UNIDO as essential for mobilizing technical assistance and financial resources. The progress on RESCUE was positively recognized, and the meeting recommended that the Ministerial Meeting mandate the ECO Secretariat to proceed with the next phase of the Initiative through finalization of the aforementioned concept note of the project, and paving the way for its implementation.

Agenda Item No. 9

Adoption of the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation

26. The Senior Officials thoroughly reviewed the draft Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation. Similar to the Cooperation Framework on Environment, delegations raised a great number of amendments during the review process. Following extensive and detailed deliberations, the Meeting

worked through each proposed amendment. After lengthy discussions, the text was refined and a consensus version emerged, incorporating the amendments agreed upon by Member States. The final text was approved for transmission to the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

Agenda Item No. 10

Date/Venue of the Next Meeting on Environment

27. The meeting concluded that the ECO Secretariat would coordinate and follow up with the potential host countries the date, venue and the format of hospitality of the 9th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment.

Agenda No. 11
Adoption of the Report

28. The Meeting assigned the ECO Secretariat to prepare the draft report of the meeting and decided that it would be disseminated through diplomatic channels with the adoption of two-week silence procedure. Following the official circulation, in case if, no objection received within the stipulated period, the report will be considered as approved by the esteemed Member States.

Agenda No. 12

Any Other Business

29. Under this item, EME Director recalled that the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would be hosted by the Republic of Türkiye in Antalya in November 2026. COP31 will be a celebration of Türkiye's resolve in fostering dialogue and global solidarity for climate action. In this vein, EME Director highlighted that ECO Secretariat is keen on anchoring jointly with the Member States any side events on the margins of COP31. Therefore, the Secretariat would be looking forward to receiving any insights and proposals on the possible side events at the earliest to make smooth preparations, and remains ready to jointly propel such initiatives into the spotlight. The delegate of Türkiye expressed readiness to explore the possibility of organizing a side event within the ECO framework dedicated to the Rio Conventions Synergy on the margins of COP31.

Agenda No. 13

Closing Remarks

30. The Chair expressed his sincere thanks to all delegates for their active participation, and constructive spirit during the lengthy deliberations. He also thanked the ECO Secretariat and the host country's support staff for their excellent organization.

31. EME Director expressed gratitude on behalf of the ECO Secretariat to the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the meeting and to participants for their fruitful deliberations. He emphasized that the meeting concluded with successful proceedings and streamlined mechanisms to advance the regional environmental agenda. Special thanks were extended to the Chairperson for his able guidance and brilliant moderation. ECO Director also thanked ECO Secretariat colleagues for facilitating the event and reaffirmed commitment to supporting follow-up activities and fostering result-oriented cooperation.

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Annex-I

List of Participants

Member States

Republic of Azerbaijan

- Mr. Yashar Karimov, Deputy Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Islamic Republic of Iran

- Mr. Arman Khoorsand, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Conventions, Department of Environment

Republic of Kazakhstan

- Ms. Shattyk Tastemirova, Deputy Director, Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Kyrgyz Republic

- Mr. Kumar Mambetaliev, Head of Biodiversity Department, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Ministry of Natural Resources

Republic of Tajikistan

- Mr. Navruz Khotamzoda, Head of International Relations, Department of the Committee for Environmental Protection Under the Government of Tajikistan

Republic of Türkiye

- Prof. Dr. Mustafa Hakkı Aydoğdu, Advisor, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change

Turkmenistan

- Mr. Serdar Eyeberenov, Head of Hydrometeorology Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Republic of Uzbekistan

- Dr. Doniyor Turgunov, Director, Hydro-meteorological Scientific Research Institute
- Mr. Makhmud Khaydarov, Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation, Grants and Ratings Department, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
- Dr. Bakhriddin Nishonov, Head of Environmental Physical and Chemical Processes Research Department, Hydro-meteorological Scientific Research Institute
- Ms. Gavkhar Makhmudova, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
- Mr. Abdijalil Torayev, Waste Management and Circular Economy Development Agency
- Mr. Nosirjon Asadov, Waste Management and Circular Economy Development Agency
- Ms. Valeriya Rakhmatova, Head of Educational Process Organization Department at Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University)

International Organizations

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, Industrial Development Expert

ECO Secretariat

- Dr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment
- Mr. Morteza Khansari Bozorgi, Program Officer

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

REPORT
of the
6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment



3 June 2026

Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan

(Silk Road by Minyoun Hotel, West Journey Hall)

REPORT

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

1. The 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment was held on 3 June 2026 in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan. The Meeting was attended by Ministers, Heads of Environment Authorities and other senior-level delegates from the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), as well as representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as an international partner of ECO at the invitation of the Host Authorities. The ECO Secretariat delegation was present throughout. *The List of Participants is attached as* ***Annex I.***

2. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues and Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. H.E. Mr. Abdukhakimov welcomed the delegates and expressed gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for its efforts.

3. H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, Secretary-General of ECO, extended in his statement profound gratitude to the Republic of Uzbekistan and to H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov for leadership to advancing the shared regional environmental goals and hosting the landmark Ministerial Meeting after a gap of nearly twelve years – a gap he described as a "bad reflection" on the Organization, given the severity of environmental challenges in the ECO region. He called for regular convening of ministerial meetings without such delays.

4. The Secretary-General highlighted the strategic timing of the Meeting, taking place immediately before the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly, and encouraged the ECO Member States to build a collective regional voice in global fora. He underscored that environmental action must not come at the expense of economic development, and specified mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, and adequate finance as critical enablers, particularly for developing countries. He noted the indispensable role of the GEF as the largest multilateral trust fund for environmental action, characterized environmental finance as woefully insufficient and called for increased resource mobilization.

5. The Secretary-General recalled that ECO designated environment and climate change as a cross-sectoral priority a decade ago, and highlighted a need for a framework and a clear roadmap to translate priorities into tangible results, and move from conception to implementation, while the credibility and strength of our environmental regime hinges upon it.

6. The Secretary-General further introduced the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its thematic annexes, which the Ministers were to endorse. He also welcomed the First Meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation (HLDPE) in Astana as a great promise for breakthroughs and trust-building through channeling multi-stakeholder wisdom, praised the RESCUE Initiative on circular economy launched at Climate COP29 in Baku, and emphasized the operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) in Baku as a pivotal hub for clean energy and mitigation. He called for stronger regional coordination, mainstreaming of environment into national planning, and convening regular sectoral environmental events, while encouraging Member States to volunteer to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the second HLDPE meeting.

7. The Secretary-General concluded by appreciating the Government of Uzbekistan for its exceptional hospitality and expressed hope that the Meeting would mark the starting point of a new decade of renewed environmental action. *A copy of his full statement is attached as* ***Annex II****.*

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairperson

8. In pursuance of the ECO Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov was unanimously elected Chairperson of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

9. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson noted the significance of the Meeting as the first gathering of ECO Environment Ministers in twelve years around a shared goal – ensuring environmental sustainability and climate security in the region. He underscored that strengthening practical cooperation is becoming increasingly important, particularly in advancing joint environmental initiatives, promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

10. The Chairperson further expressed confidence that the outcome documents to be adopted – the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030), the Work Programs on Climate Change and Biodiversity, and the Samarkand Declaration – would serve as the crucial foundation for a new phase of regional environmental partnership. *A copy of his opening remarks is attached as* ***Annex III****.*

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

11. The Ministerial Meeting unanimously adopted the provisional agenda as circulated by the ECO Secretariat. *The adopted agenda is attached as* ***Annex IV****.*

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointment of the Drafting Committee

12. An open-ended Drafting Committee comprising the ECO Secretariat was appointed to finalize the report and outcome documents.

Agenda Item No. 5

Statements and Presentations by Member States

13. Under this agenda item, Ministers and Heads of Delegations delivered their national statements. The delegates expressed their sincere appreciation to the Republic of Uzbekistan for its exceptional hospitality and to the ECO Secretariat for its diligent efforts in organizing the Meeting.

14. The statements encompassed a broad range of shared environmental challenges encountered by the ECO region, most notably climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, land degradation, desertification, air pollution, sand and dust storms, and the decline of ecosystems, including marine ecosystems such as the Caspian Sea. *The statements shared by the Member States are attached as* ***Annex V.***

15. Several delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and announced updated nationally determined contributions, with a few speaking of their commitment to emissions reduction and carbon neutrality in future.

16. The importance of the circular economy as a tool for industrial de-carbonization, job creation, and sustainable resource management was highlighted, with specific reference to regional initiatives on resource efficiency and waste management. In this particular context, the RESCUE initiative was reiterated as a promising regional platform, which is due to contribute to addressing the triple planetary crisis and support positioning the ECO region as an innovative partner within the global sustainability agenda in upcoming years.

17. Many delegates stressed that environmental challenges are transboundary in nature and require strengthened regional cooperation, data sharing, early warning systems, and joint projects, particularly on sand and dust storms, transboundary water resources, and ecosystem conservation.

18. Several Member States called for a collective ECO voice in global environmental forums, including the UNFCCC COPs, the GEF Assembly, and the upcoming COP31, to be hosted by Türkiye in Antalya. Concerns were also raised about the environmental impact of military operations and the need for effective multilateralism was reaffirmed.

19. Delegates from several Member States with significant mountain territories highlighted the particular vulnerability of mountain ecosystems, including accelerating glacial melt, loss of high altitude biodiversity, and the implications for downstream water, energy, and food security. They called for enhanced regional cooperation on transboundary glacier monitoring, mountain protected areas, and climate adaptation in mountainous regions.

20. The presentation on the Concept for a regional early warning system for sand and dust storms among the ECO Member States was delivered by Uzbekistan as the host, entailing the establishment of a regional centre, a coordinating council, and a technical working group, with a call for a unified approach to address the environmental and economic impacts. *The Concept is attached as* ***Annex VI****.*

21. The Chairperson thanked all delegations for their constructive and forward-looking contributions, noting that the rich exchange of views would inform the implementation of the regional environmental agenda. He also expressed hope that all Member States would seriously consider and respond to the presented concept by Uzbekistan on a regional early warning system for sand and dust storms in the region, which will enable us to proceed to the next stage with the coordination and support of the ECO Secretary-General.

Agenda Item No. 6

Report by the Chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting

22. The Chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting / 8th Working Group on Environment presented the outcomes of the SOM, held on 2 June 2026. He briefed the Ministerial Meeting that the SOM had conducted detailed page-by-page reviews of the drafts of ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment, its thematic annexes, and the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation. A great number of amendments had been raised and, after lengthy discussions, consensus was reached on the final texts. The SOM recommended that the Ministerial Meeting endorse the documents.

23. The Ministerial Meeting noted the SOM report and proceeded to take decisions based on its recommendations.

Agenda Item No. 7

Endorsement of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026- 2030) and its Thematic Annexes

24. The Ministerial Meeting considered the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its Thematic Annexes – the ECO Work Program on

Climate Change 2026-2030, and the ECO Work Program on Biodiversity 2026-2030, as finalized by the SOM.

25. The Ministerial Meeting endorsed the Cooperation Framework and its two Work Programs by consensus. The Chair congratulated all the Member States on adopting these foundational documents as a milestone for our region in the upcoming years. *The adopted texts are attached as* ***Annex VII***.

Agenda Item No. 8

ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation (HLDPE)

26. The Chairperson, in his capacity as the incumbent Chair of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation (HLDPE) briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the first HLDPE meeting, held on 23 April 2026 in Astana, Kazakhstan on the margins of Astana Ecological Summit. The Ministerial Meeting took note of the outcomes of the first meeting, including the Chair's Summary and the revised Roadmap, which were circulated earlier among Member States.

27. The Ministerial Meeting welcomed the successful launch of the HLDPE, endorsed the recommendations envisaged in the Chair's Summary and requested the ECO Secretariat, in cooperation with Uzbekistan, to finalize the Roadmap of the Platform for the next two years.

Agenda Item No. 9

Follow-up on the Implementation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE)

28. The Ministerial Meeting reviewed progress under the RESCUE Initiative, launched in November 2024 during the Climate COP29 in Baku. The ECO Secretariat presented a brief update on the Initiative, followed by a statement by Ms. Fatou Haidara, Deputy to the Director-General of UNIDO. She cited that the RESCUE Initiative is rapidly becoming a flagship regional alliance, aligning ECO Member States with global momentum toward sustainability.

29. Ms. Fatou Haidara highlighted UNIDO's focus on industrial de-carbonization, energy efficiency, and increased circularity, noting in this context that a joint ECO-UNIDO Project Concept on Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition had been developed. UNIDO explained that the foresight methodology helps identify value chains and industries that can transform toward circularity more easily, faster, and with fewer resources.

30. UNIDO emphasized that industry greening creates not only economic benefits

but also social and environmental advantages, including job creation. The aforementioned joint project serves as a platform for collaboration, connecting ECO countries to global partners and investment opportunities. UNIDO invited all ECO Member States to support the project concept as part of today's declarations and expressed commitment to working closely with the ECO Secretariat for implementation. *A copy of her remarks is attached as* ***Annex VIII***.

31. The Ministerial Meeting welcomed the progress under RESCUE, expressed support for the UNIDO concept note on the foresight project, and tasked the ECO Secretariat to continue collaborating with UNIDO to develop a full-fledged project proposal in consultations with Member States for possible financing.

Agenda Item No. 10

Adoption of the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation

32. The Ministerial Meeting considered the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation as its political outcome. The meeting noted with appreciation that its draft was refined and finalized by the SOM following the extensive deliberation and incorporation of numerous amendments from the Member States.

33. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the Samarkand Declaration by consensus. The Declaration serves as a unified political statement of the ECO Member States' commitment to enhanced regional environmental action. *The adopted Samarkand Declaration is attached as* ***Annex IX***.

Agenda Item No. 11

Date and Venue of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

34. The Ministerial Meeting discussed the scheduling of the next ministerial meeting. The 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment is expected be held in 2027 at a date and venue to be determined by the ECO Secretariat in consultation with Member States. In this vein, the Member States were encouraged to volunteer as hosts.

Agenda No. 12

Adoption of the Report

35. The Meeting tasked the ECO Secretariat with preparing the draft report of the meeting and sharing it via messaging platforms prior to official circulation. The final report is expected to be disseminated through diplomatic channels.

Agenda No. 13

Any Other Business

36. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda No. 14

Closing Remarks

37. In his closing remarks, the ECO Secretary-General congratulated the Republic of Uzbekistan for successfully convening the Ministerial Meeting after a long gap and thanked all delegations for their constructive engagement, which led to a successful outcome. He acknowledged the marching orders received from the Ministers for a new regional framework on environment and stressed the critical importance of implementing the Samarkand Declaration as instructed, emphasizing that regional unity is essential to effectively address the shared environmental challenges facing the ECO region.

38. The Secretary-General further underscored the need to focus on developing bankable projects that can attract international climate finance. He noted that the collective capacity of the Member States to design and prepare such projects must be strengthened. The Secretary-General thus called for reliance on the accumulated capacity of Azerbaijan and Türkiye – both of which have demonstrated leadership in project development and global climate negotiations – to guide the region in translating policy commitments into investable, finance-ready initiatives.

39. The Chairperson expressed his sincere thanks to all the ministers and delegations for their constructive spirit and finalization of the key outcomes: the Framework, the Programs, the Samarkand Declaration, and further insight for RESCUE and HLDPE.

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Annex-I

List of Participants
of the
6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

MEMBER STATES

Republic of Azerbaijan

- H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues
- Mr. Tural Mammadov, Senior Advisor, Office of the Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues

Islamic Republic of Iran

- H.E. Dr. Shina Ansari, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Head of the Department of Environment
- H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ali Eskandari, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Uzbekistan
- Mr. Arman Khoorsand, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Conventions, Department of Environment

Republic of Kazakhstan

- H.E. Mr. Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources
- Ms. Saule Sabieva, Director, Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- Ms. Shattyk Tastemirova, Deputy Director, Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Kyrgyz Republic

- Mr. Kumar Mambetaliev, Head of Biodiversity Department, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Ministry of Natural Resources

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- H.E. Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination

Republic of Tajikistan

- H.E. Mr. Bahodur Sheralizoda, Chairman, Committee for Environmental Protection

- Mr. Navruz Khotamzoda, Head of International Relations, Committee for Environmental Protection

Republic of Türkiye

- Prof. Dr. Kasım Yenigün, Director General, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change

- Prof. Dr. Mustafa Hakkı Aydoğdu, Advisor, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change

Republic of Uzbekistan

- H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues and Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

- Mr. Otabek Babamuradov, Head of the International Cooperation, Grants and Ratings Department, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

- Mr. Baktiyor Pulatov, Rector, Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University)

- Mr. Makhmud Khaydarov, Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation, Grants and Ratings Department, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

- Ms. Guzel Shaykhislamova, Leading Specialist of International Cooperation, Grants and Ratings Department, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

- Ms. Gavkhar Makhmudova, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
- Dr. Doniyor Turgunov, Director, Hydro-meteorological Research Institute
- Mr. Abdijalil Torayev, Waste Management and Circular Economy Development Agency
- Mr. Nosirjon Asadov, Waste Management and Circular Economy Development Agency
- Ms. Valeriya Rakhmatova, Head of Educational Process Organization Department, Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- Ms. Fatou Haidara, Deputy to the Director-General and Managing Director
- Ms. Ganna Onysko, Senior Coordinator

ECO SECRETARIAT

- H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, Secretary-General
- Dr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment
- Mr. Morteza Khansari Bozorgi, Program Officer

Annex-II

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General
at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct privilege to welcome you all to the beautiful and historic city of Samarkand. We gather here to renew and reaffirm our commitment to enhanced regional environmental cooperation and action.

At the outset, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in particular to His Excellency Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, for his close personal interest and leadership in convening this landmark formal Ministerial meeting after a gap of almost 12 years.

While this is a clear demonstration of Uzbekistan's unwavering commitment, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to advancing our shared regional environmental goals and priorities. It is sadly a bad reflection on us as an organization representing a region that is afflicted with practically every environmental challenge that one can think of. This must change. We cannot afford to convene our next environmental ministerial after 12 years. We must convene it regularly and with adequate preparations.

Excellencies,

Our gathering today is both timely and strategic. It takes place immediately

before the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly, offering us a unique window to exchange views, build political momentum, and galvanize ambitious plans for accelerated environmental action. I firmly believe that the ECO region must strive to echo a collective voice in the global arena and advocate for outcomes that align our development aspirations with global environmental targets.

A core concern for our region remains clear: environmental action must not come at the expense of economic development. Meanwhile, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, and adequate finance are the critical enablers of environmental action, particularly for developing countries that have contributed the least to the environmental degradation we now face. Yet, environmental finance is woefully insufficient. Recent geopolitical developments have created significant uncertainty regarding the future scale and predictability of multilateral climate and biodiversity finance, thus affecting the patterns of international cooperation on environment. The GEF plays a unique and indispensable role as the largest multilateral trust fund for environmental action – financing projects that address biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, and pollution across developing countries. We look to the GEF Assembly to significantly increase resource mobilization and accelerate the delivery of outcomes that match the scale of action our planet urgently demands.

Excellencies,

A decade ago, ECO designated environment and climate change as a cross-sectoral priority. That was necessary, but now we need a framework and a clear roadmap to translate priorities into tangible results, and move from conception to implementation. The credibility and strength of our environmental regime hinges upon it. The challenge is no longer why action is needed, but how to deliver it at scale.

Our collective efforts henceforth will be firmly anchored in the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, being developed as ECO's new vision and roadmap for action for the next decade. This forward-looking strategy in its current iteration identifies environmental protection, resilience, and the shift to a low-carbon

development model as a core priority and policy focus. It calls for stronger regional coordination, integrated action on climate, biodiversity and desertification, and a just transition that balances prosperity with planetary boundaries.

Excellencies,

The ECO Cooperation Framework on Environment (2026-2030) and its thematic annexes on Climate Change and Biodiversity that the Ministers will endorse today spells out both the principles and specifics of regional environmental cooperation. The key features of this Framework are:

First, it establishes seven concrete objectives – from strengthening regional environmental coordination and mainstreaming biodiversity to integrating low-carbon development, combating land degradation and desertification, and ensuring a green recovery.

Second, it creates two expert groups to coordinate the annexed Work Programs and includes a light-touch monitoring and evaluation mechanism with voluntary biennial progress reports.

Third, it calls for a dedicated resource mobilization strategy, including the possible creation of an ECO Green Project Facility.

In short, this Framework transforms our regional ambitions into a structured, accountable, and implementable roadmap.

Distinguished Guests

Let me also highlight with appreciation the first meeting of the High Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, successfully hosted by Uzbekistan during the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana earlier this year. That Platform, and the important decision you take on the way forward today I trust, hold great promise

for breakthroughs and trust-building through channelling multi-stakeholder wisdom.

In this vein, I also wish to recall the growing importance of combating desertification and land degradation, as well as the increasing threat of sand and dust storms in our region. These issues are not separate from biodiversity conservation or climate action; they are integral to both. I hope that the High Level Dialogue Platform will devote focused attention to this nexus in its future deliberations, particularly in the context of enhancing regional capacity in developing monitoring mechanisms and early warning system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must increase ECO's effectiveness in addressing regional environmental challenges, and multilateralism is our only hope. The triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – demands integrated and fresh solutions like the circular economy. For this reason, we launched the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy (RESCUE) during Climate COP29 in Baku. We further engaged with UNIDO on a foresight project to assess circular economy opportunities and challenges across the ECO region – a strategic compass for our circular transition.

Similarly, the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) is another important track to achieve clean and green growth. Since becoming operational at the end of 2025 in Baku, CECECO has been evolving into a pivotal triangular capacity hub to ramp up industrialization, energy security, and climate goals. Scaling clean energy is the single largest mitigation measure available. Without it, we cannot meet our climate targets. With it, we build a resilient, low carbon economy.

Honourable Ministers,

Delivering on the environment requires collective and concerted action from all Member States. We need to further mainstream environment and climate resilience into national and regional development planning, programming, and budgeting.

Our countries are set to focus on decoupling economic growth from resource use and greenhouse gas emissions. We can nurture our enormous potential in renewable energy and jointly position ourselves at the heart of a renewable future – through CECECO, through RESCUE, and through every tool at our disposal.

We also humbly encourage you to organize sectoral environmental events on a regular basis. I therefore call upon Member States to play a more active role by volunteering to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, as well as the second meeting of the High Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The potential of the ECO region is immense, and together we can smartly harness it, not only to tackle environmental challenges but to shape a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for all our peoples.

Together, we can also make this meeting the starting point of a new decade of renewed action.

Before I conclude let me convey our deep appreciation to the Government of Uzbekistan, especially the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change for the exceptional hospitality extended to all of us.

Thank you.

Annex - III

Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues and Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

at the

6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Samarkand, Silk Road by Minyon Hotel, 3 June 2026

Assalamu alaykum

Excellencies, Mr. Secretary General, Dear colleagues, Dear partners

My sincere pleasure to welcome you to the ancient and beautiful city of Samarkand for the **6th Economic Cooperation Organization Ministerial Meeting on Environment**.

It is a great honor for us to host this vital regional event, which brings together the ECO member states **around a shared goal** – ensuring environmental sustainability and climate security in our region.

Today's meeting is of **particular significance**. For the first time in the last **12 years**, the Ministers of Environment of the ECO member states are gathering to develop coordinated approaches to addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

In this regard, strengthening practical cooperation is becoming **increasingly important**, particularly in advancing joint environmental initiatives, promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

I am confident that the documents presented for consideration today – ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment for 2026–2030, the Work Programs on Climate and Biodiversity, as well as the Samarkand Declaration – will serve as a crucial foundation for a new phase of regional environmental partnership.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to the **ECO Secretariat** and to **all the experts** whose valuable contributions during yesterday's consultations and discussions helped finalize the documents presented for review today.

I am convinced that today's meeting will be a major step toward strengthening regional environmental solidarity and will elevate cooperation within the ECO to a **qualitatively new level**.

I wish all participants a constructive dialogue and a highly successful meeting.

Thank you for your attention! Katta Rahmat!

Annex - IV

AGENDA

6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

3 June 2026

Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Appointment of the Drafting Committee
5. Statements and Presentations by the Member States
6. Report by the Chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting
7. Endorsement of the draft ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its Thematic Annexes:

a. ECO Work Program on Climate Change (2026-2030)
b. ECO Work Program on Biodiversity (2026-2030)

8. ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation
9. Follow-up on the Implementation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE)
10. Adoption of the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation
11. Date and Venue of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment
12. Adoption of the Report
13. Any other Business
14. Closing Remarks

Annex - V

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues

in the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the ECO Secretariat for convening this important meeting here in the historic city of Samarkand.

Today's discussions take place at a time when our region is facing increasingly interconnected environmental challenges.

Climate change, land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, air pollution, and growing pressure on water and natural resources.

Many of these challenges are transboundary in nature.

And they require stronger regional coordination, practical cooperation and collective action.

Azerbaijan welcomes efforts aimed at strengthening environmental cooperation within the ECO framework.

Including the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment for 2026-2030, the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, and stronger practical regional cooperation across thematic areas.

We particularly welcome the launch of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation during the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana.

We believe this platform can become an important mechanism for exchanging experience, strengthening scientific cooperation and supporting joint monitoring.

As well as advancing practical regional initiatives, particularly on air quality, sand and dust storms, climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable resource management.

Azerbaijan, in partnership with the ECO Secretariat, has also developed a practical regional mechanism to contribute to addressing our shared environmental challenges - the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy, or RESCUE.

We collectively launched RESCUE during the Ministerial Meeting on Circular Economy held on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku on 16 November 2024.

The initiative aims to support a just transition toward a resource-efficient, circular and regenerative economy.

While also promoting more sustainable management of natural resources.

We believe RESCUE can contribute to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

And can help position the ECO region as a constructive and innovative partner within the global sustainability agenda.

Azerbaijan has also actively supported the advancement of another important ECO flagship initiative - the establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre in Baku in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO.

We are confident that this Centre will contribute to scaling up sustainable energy transition, energy efficiency, clean technologies and climate-resilient low-carbon infrastructure across the ECO region and beyond.

Regional environmental cooperation is becoming an essential condition for sustainable development, resilience and long-term stability across our region.

Therefore, we encourage all Member States to continue contributing actively to these common efforts, strengthen ownership of regional initiatives and further support practical, action-oriented cooperation under the ECO framework.

Thank you.

Speech by Dr. Shina Ansari, Vice-President and the Head of the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank the host government and the ECO Secretariat for organizing this important meeting.

On 28 February, two lawless regimes—the United States of America and the Zionist regime—launched an unlawful and unprovoked act of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, targeting its martyred leadership, civilians, civilian infrastructure, and protected environmental areas. These attacks caused irreparable damage to the environment of the region, the sensitive marine ecosystems of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and other environmentally significant areas. Condemning these horrific crimes and the severe damage they inflicted, particularly the bloody attacks on a school in Minab and a girls' sports club in Lamerd, is the duty of all freedom-loving people and an obligation incumbent upon international institutions and organizations. Continued inaction in the face of such crimes will undoubtedly lead to the further erosion of confidence in ineffective international mechanisms.

Here, on behalf of the Government and the resilient people of Iran, I would also like to express our appreciation for the principled positions adopted by the majority of ECO member states regarding this brutal aggression. I firmly believe that strengthening regional multilateralism and cooperation among member states will help create conditions that further distance destructive extra-regional forces from the shared neighborhood of ECO countries.

Beyond their historical, cultural, and economic ties, ECO member states face a range of common environmental challenges whose impacts directly affect the welfare, health, security, and sustainable development of our peoples.

The ECO region is among the most vulnerable regions of the world to climate change. Rising temperatures, recurrent droughts, declining water resources, land degradation, dust and sand storms, wildfires, and biodiversity loss are all affecting the development trajectory of our countries.

Among these challenges, dust and sand storms have emerged as one of the most significant transboundary environmental threats. This phenomenon has not only

environmental consequences but also extensive economic, social, and public health impacts. Addressing it effectively requires close regional cooperation, data sharing, joint projects, and support from international organizations.

Likewise, protecting the region's fragile ecosystems—including mountains, forests, wetlands, arid and semi-arid lands, and marine environments—requires a coordinated and regional approach.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that ECO can serve as an effective platform for advancing environmental diplomacy in the region. In this regard, we propose:

- Developing a regional cooperation framework for addressing dust and sand storms;
- Strengthening regional climate monitoring networks and environmental data exchange;
- Expanding cooperation in sustainable water resources management and combating desertification;
- Developing joint projects for the conservation of biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems; and
- Enhancing cooperation in the fields of green economy, renewable energy, and clean technologies.

Excellencies,
Global experience has demonstrated that no country can confront complex environmental challenges alone. Regional cooperation is no longer a matter of choice; it is an unavoidable necessity for securing a sustainable future for our peoples.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to further expand technical, scientific, and operational cooperation with ECO member states and to play an active role in shaping joint regional initiatives.

I hope that the outcomes of this meeting will contribute to stronger practical cooperation and tangible achievements for the environment and sustainable development of our region.

Thank you for your attention.

Speech by Mr. Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on the Environment

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude to the Uzbek side for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of today's meeting in the beautiful city of Samarkand.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for its consistent efforts to strengthen cooperation and promote the **environmental agenda,** which is of great importance for our region.

Such meetings provide an **important platform** for open exchange of views, strengthening mutual trust, and developing joint solutions in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Today, the environmental agenda is becoming an increasingly important component of regional cooperation.

We have repeatedly noted that climate change, glacier retreat, water scarcity, land degradation, and biodiversity loss are already directly affecting the **sustainable development of our countries and the quality of life of our people.**

That is why environmental cooperation must remain a unifying agenda for all of us. **The Regional Ecological Summit** held in Astana confirmed the readiness of ECO member states to expand cooperation and consolidate efforts in addressing modern environmental and climate challenges.

Kazakhstan believes that within the ECO framework we have strong opportunities to advance joint environmental initiatives.

In this regard, I would like to briefly highlight **several areas** that we consider particularly important.

First. Implementation of international climate commitments.

Within the framework of the Paris Agreement, Kazakhstan has approved its updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0).** Work is underway to implement the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060.

Renewable energy sources are being developed, and projects are being implemented in the areas of energy efficiency, reforestation, emissions reduction, and climate change adaptation.

Second. Promotion of the circular economy and sustainable waste management.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the development of a **circular economy.**

Within the framework of the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana, the countries of Central Asia **endorsed the Framework Partnership Programme on Circular Economy in Central Asia.**

In this context, the adoption of the **Baku Declaration and the RESCUE initiative** was also an important step forward.

We view it as an important platform for promoting the principles of resource efficiency and circular economy across the region.

One of the key elements of the circular economy is a modern **waste management system.**

Kazakhstan has already launched systemic reforms in the field of waste management and recycling development.

The Concept for the Management of All Types of Waste for 2026–2030 has been approved. It envisages a transition from predominantly landfill-based disposal toward a more modern and resource-efficient model. Practical projects are being implemented to develop recycling and introduce circular economy principles.

We consider this document not only as a **domestic action plan**, but also as a basis for further exchange of experience with our partners.

We are open to cooperation, ready to share our experience, and interested in learning from the successful practices of other ECO countries.

Third. Ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.

The adopted **Concept on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2026–2035** will allow the expansion of specially protected natural areas to **33.2 million hectares.**

Today, it is important not only to increase the area of protected territories, but also to ensure ecological connectivity of ecosystems, preserve animal migration routes, and maintain the resilience of natural landscapes.

In this regard, Kazakhstan advocates **strengthening transboundary environmental cooperation within the ECO framework.**

Rare animal species, including the snow leopard, argali sheep, kulan, goitered gazelle, and Caspian seal, constitute our shared natural heritage and require joint conservation efforts.

Fourth. Rational water resource management and combating land degradation.

Water resources are a strategic asset directly linked to environmental security and regional stability.

On the sidelines of the Astana Summit, international consultations were held on the establishment of an International Water Organization under the United Nations.

We call on ECO member states to take an active part in advancing this initiative.

ECO can play a particularly important role as a platform for coordinating regional initiatives and consolidating the efforts of member states.

Today, we must focus not only on discussing the environmental agenda, but also on implementing concrete joint projects in the fields of green economy, ecotourism, digital environmental monitoring, and climate finance mechanisms.

We should make greater use of the potential of international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, development banks, and private investment.

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to express confidence that today's meeting will give

new impetus to the development **of environmental cooperation within the ECO framework,** and that the **Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation and the ECO Framework Programme on Environment Cooperation for 2026–2030** will become effective platforms for launching concrete environmental initiatives and further strengthening regional partnership.

Thank you for your attention.

Country Statement by H.E. Ms. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of Pakistan
6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment
Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan – 3 June 2026

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is a distinct privilege for Pakistan to participate in the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization on Environment. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Republic of Uzbekistan for its exemplary hospitality and to the ECO Secretariat for its continued stewardship.

As highlighted in the ECO Annual Economic Reports, our region stands at a critical crossroads, facing a confluence of challenges from climate change, desertification, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, all of which threaten our hard-won economic gains.

The ECO has rightly identified environmental sustainability not as a peripheral concern, but as a central pillar for achieving shared prosperity.

We commend the Secretariat's work in developing the new ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its thematic annexes. Pakistan believes these documents provide a robust, long-term regional strategy that streamlines key priorities—from green technologies and renewable energy to resource efficiency—perfectly aligning with the urgent need to balance economic development with ecological resilience.

Climate change and environmental degradation transcend national borders. The interconnected ecosystems of the ECO region—our shared mountain ranges, river basins, and migratory corridors—demand a unified, coordinated response.

Pakistan firmly believes that the ECO platform is indispensable for fostering this cooperation, enabling the harmonization of policies, the sharing of critical data for early warning systems, and the joint mobilization of finance.

Honourable Chair, despite contributing less than one percent to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan stands on the frontlines of climate-induced disasters. In

response, and under the visionary leadership of our government, Pakistan has moved from a reactive stance to a position of proactive, global leadership.

We have built a Robust Policy, Legal, and Institutional Framework to guide our climate action, embedding sustainability into our national DNA.

Our journey under the Paris Agreement has been marked by concrete achievements. We have successfully implemented our first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 1) and made significant progress on NDC 2, which has now been enhanced and updated.

In a major leap forward, we are announcing our revised targets under NDC 3, which commits Pakistan to a 17% unconditional and 33% conditional reduction in its projected greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2035.

This ambition is powered by tangible, on-the-ground best practices. I am proud to highlight our Solar PV Roof Revolution, which has successfully added over 4 Giga Watt of solar capacity to our national grid, democratizing energy access and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Our natural ecosystems remain a national priority. The Mangroves Project along our coastline is not only a global carbon sequestration champion but has also started generating carbon credits, providing a replicable model for nature-based solutions and blue carbon finance. This complements our flagship Upscaled Green Pakistan Programme, our 10 Billion Tree Afforestation drive, of which 2.2 billion trees have already been planted. This massive effort has restored degraded forests, revived wildlife habitats for wildlife species, and created hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

To align our financial flows with our climate goals, we have launched the Pakistan Green Taxonomy and initiated budget tagging for climate expenditures, ensuring that every rupee spent contributes to a sustainable future.

We have also finalized our Carbon Trading Policy Guidelines, creating a legal and regulatory framework for a high-integrity voluntary carbon market.

To protect our vulnerable mountain communities, we have established an effective Early Warning System (EWS) for Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), which has already proven its worth in saving lives and property.

However, our national efforts, however robust, cannot succeed in isolation. Pakistan

therefore proposes that the ECO region deepen its cooperation in the following areas:

We should establish a formal ECO coordination mechanism to forge common positions ahead of major UNFCCC COPs, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) conferences, amplifying our collective negotiation power on issues of adaptation finance, loss and damage, and technology transfer.

The ECO Secretariat must play a proactive role in developing multi-country, bankable project proposals for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Priority areas should include transboundary glacier monitoring, a regional sand and dust storm early warning and mitigation system, and a Central-South Asia "Green Energy Corridor."

We propose a dedicated ECO Technical Working Group to facilitate the exchange of expertise on successful initiatives, such as our solar revolution, mangrove carbon credits, and large-scale afforestation models.

Pakistan reiterates its unwavering commitment to the ECO vision. We look forward to adopting an ambitious Samarkand Declaration and a robust Cooperation Framework that translates our shared ambitions into measurable, on-the-ground action for the benefit of all our peoples.

I thank you!

Statement by the Republic of Türkiye at the
6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum and warm greetings from Türkiye.

It is an honor for me to address this distinguished gathering at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in the historic city of Samarkand.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Excellency Aziz Abdukhakimov for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of this important meeting.

Uzbekistan has played an important and constructive role in bringing environmental issues onto ECO's agenda, particularly through its efforts to promote regional dialogue and practical cooperation as well as its political ownership. The organization of this Ministerial Meeting after a long interval, demonstrates a strong commitment to strengthening regional environmental cooperation.

Distinguished Representatives,

Environmental challenges are becoming increasingly significant both globally and regionally. Climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, desertification, water scarcity, and natural disasters directly affect economic stability, food security, energy systems, public health, and sustainable development.

Our region is particularly vulnerable to these challenges. Therefore, strengthening regional cooperation on environmental matters is becoming more important than ever.

At the same time, we should also remain mindful of ECO's founding principles and core mission.

ECO is fundamentally an organization for economic cooperation and development. The backbone of our cooperation remains economic connectivity, trade, transport, energy and sustainable growth. In our region, which consists mainly of developing countries, ensuring lasting environmental progress requires sustainable economic growth. Without economic resilience, infrastructure investment, adequate financing,

technology transfer and regional connectivity, it will be impossible to fully realize our environmental ambitions.

However, sustainable economic development is becoming increasingly dependent on efficient environmental policies. Therefore, we believe that ECO should continue to pursue a balanced and pragmatic approach that prioritizes economic development while integrating environmental sustainability into our regional cooperation efforts.

Distinguished Participants,

Türkiye attaches great importance to ECO as a strategic platform that connects our countries through shared geography, historical ties, and common development aspirations.

As Türkiye, we have consistently supported ECO's efforts in areas such as transport connectivity, renewable energy, trade facilitation, tourism, and sustainable development.

We also welcome the ongoing efforts under the ECO Cooperation Framework on Environment for 2026–2030, including initiatives related to climate resilience, biodiversity, combating land degradation and desertification, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices.

In this regard, we particularly value regional initiatives such as the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy, as well as the work of the ECO Clean Energy Centre. These initiatives demonstrate that environmental action can also contribute to economic transformation, energy security, industrial competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

We are also pleased to see that the zero waste approach is receiving growing attention within ECO cooperation. What began as a national environmental vision under the leadership of First Lady of Türkiye, Her Excellency Mrs. Emine Erdoğan has gradually evolved into a global movement supported by the United Nations and embraced by countries and institutions across different regions. Today, the Zero Waste Initiative represents a broader understanding of sustainable consumption and resource efficiency.

In this regard, we attach particular importance to further strengthening regional cooperation on zero waste practices.

Türkiye also remains committed to sharing its expertise and experiences with fellow ECO member countries in areas such as green infrastructure, renewable energy, circular economy practices, and climate adaptation.

Esteemed Delegates,

Today, the environmental sector is becoming one of the major drivers of global economic transformation. Green technologies, renewable energy systems, sustainable agriculture, resource efficiency, and climate-resilient infrastructure are rapidly gaining strategic importance worldwide.

This transformation also presents significant opportunities for the ECO region.

By strengthening regional cooperation, attracting investment, promoting innovation, and enhancing technical collaboration, our countries can jointly benefit from the emerging green economy while preserving sustainable growth and social development.

By the same token, the efforts to cope with today's environmental challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution require integrated and mutually reinforcing responses.

In this regard, as the incoming COP31 President, Türkiye places particular importance on advancing "Rio Conventions synergies" among the climate, biodiversity and desertification agendas. We consider this approach as one of the key priorities of our COP31 Climate Action Agenda. Strengthening coherence among multilateral environmental processes, while supporting nationally-driven implementation and sustainable development priorities, will be essential for delivering effective outcomes.

We believe that ECO can play an important role in operationalizing these synergies on the ground, particularly in areas such as land restoration, ecosystem resilience, circular economy and climate adaptation.

Distinguished Colleagues,

International climate cooperation also remains critically important.

As the COP31 President, we are committed to promoting an inclusive and implementation-oriented COP. We believe that climate action must go hand in hand with sustainable development, economic resilience and equitable access to finance, technology and capacity-building.

In this regard, I would like to kindly invite all ECO member states to actively participate in the upcoming COP31 meeting to be hosted by Türkiye in Antalya, between 9-20 November 2026.

We believe this important gathering will provide a valuable platform to strengthen the collective voice of our region, deepen cooperation among our countries, and advance practical and balanced solutions to joint environmental and climate challenges.

Türkiye will continue to work constructively with all ECO member states toward a more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable future for our region.

Before concluding, I would like to once again thank the Government of Uzbekistan, honorable Secretary General Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and his team, and all distinguished delegates for their valuable contributions and commitment.

I sincerely believe that today's discussions will further strengthen regional solidarity and pave the way for more practical, results-oriented, and sustainable cooperation under the ECO framework.

Thank you very much.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues and Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Samarkand, Silk Road by Minyon Hotel, 3 June 2026,

Excellencies, Mr. Secretary General, Dear colleagues, Dear partners

Taking this opportunity, allow me to present Uzbekistan's approaches and priorities in the field of regional environmental cooperation.

Under the leadership of the **President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, our country consistently advances the principles of **mutual trust**, **regional cooperation** and **joint solutions** to common challenges, including environmental protection and climate change.

We view today's **Ministerial Meeting** as an **important step** toward building a more practical and result-oriented environmental agenda within the ECO framework.

Dear colleagues,

One of the most serious challenges facing our region is land degradation and desertification.

According to the UNCCD, at least **1.2 billion** people and **1.5 billion hectares** of land are already affected by land degradation, while an additional **100 million** hectares are degraded annually.

In this regard, we believe it is particularly important to strengthen regional scientific and technological cooperation.

To support this objective, Uzbekistan has established the **Research Institute for Combating Desertification and Desert Economy** at **Green University**.

We are ready to further develop cooperation with ECO member states in the areas of scientific research, technology exchange, capacity building and implementation of joint pilot projects.

Another important area of cooperation is sustainable forest management and afforestation.

In this regard, we encourage ECO member states to strengthen cooperation in implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution on the "Decade of Action on Afforestation and Reforestation in Accordance with Sustainable Forest Management," initiated by Uzbekistan.

As a first practical step in this direction, a draft "Cross-Border Green Program of ECO Member States for 2026–2030" has been developed, aimed at afforestation in desert areas. We will share this proposal with all member states and look forward to your support.

Dear colleagues,

Strengthening regional cooperation in disaster risk prevention is also becoming increasingly important.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, around **2 billion tons** of dust enter the atmosphere every year.

As is well known, a significant number of ECO member states are located within the global dust belt and are increasingly affected by sand and dust storms.

It is for this reason that, within the framework of the First Meeting of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation initiated by the **President of Uzbekistan**, we proposed the development of a Regional Early Warning System for Sand and Dust Storms.

Our specialists developed **the Concept** of the system and presented it yesterday at 8th Working Group Meeting.

We are convinced that this initiative could become an important practical contribution to strengthening regional environmental security.

In this regard, we look forward to the continued support of the ECO Secretariat and partner international organizations.

Uzbekistan reaffirms its readiness for **further active** and **constructive cooperation** with all ECO member states in the interests of a sustainable and environmentally secure future for our region.

Thank you for your attention! Katta Rahmat!

Annex - VI

ECO EXPO

SAMARKAND
31 may – 5 june
2026

КОНЦЕПЦИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ ПРЕДУПРЕЖДЕНИЯ ПЕСЧАНЫХ И ПЫЛЬНЫХ БУРЬ В СТРАНАХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА

CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR SAND AND DUST STORMS IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

2026

CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR SAND AND DUST STORMS IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

✦

Chapter 1. General Provisions

1. Sand and dust storms (SDS) are dangerous natural meteorological phenomena that have a significant impact on society and the environment. According to estimates by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), approximately 2 billion tons of dust enter the atmosphere annually[1]. Along with natural factors, human activities associated with the unsustainable use of land and water resources make a significant contribution to the formation of dust storms.

SDS is recognized worldwide as a serious environmental threat that negatively impacts climatic and biogeochemical processes, leading to a deterioration in the environment and public health, as well as adversely affecting various sectors of the economy, including transportation, agriculture, and industry.

At the international level, SDS are viewed as a significant environmental risk factor requiring comprehensive monitoring, prevention, and management measures[2]. In 2017, the UNCCD adopted a Policy Framework that emphasizes the importance of monitoring systems, early warning systems, and preventive measures[3]. UNCCD documents emphasize that effective action against SDS requires a comprehensive approach based on international cooperation and coordination among states[4]. Recognizing the urgency and magnitude of the issue, the UN General Assembly has designated 2025–2034 as the "Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms" The resolution also reiterates that sand and dust storms are a matter of international concern, and that the associated costs manifest themselves in economic, social, and environmental consequences, while the intensity and frequency of such phenomena continue to increase.

2. Given the growing relevance of the SDS issue in the region encompassing countries in Asia and the Middle East, including Afghanistan,

[1] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). 2022. Compendium of Sand and Dust Storms: Summary for Decision Makers. Bonn, Germany.

[2] https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-05/1871_Summary%20for%20Decision%20Makers_RU%20web_0.pdf

[3] https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-07/ICCD_COP%2814%29_17-1910488R.pdf

[4] https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/un-declares-2025-2034-decade-combating-sand-and-dust-storms

Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as their transboundary nature and their growing impact on food security and sustainable development in the region, there is a growing need to develop coordinated regional efforts to address SDS challenges [5]. In this regard, the development of the present Concept is one of the key steps toward establishing a unified approach to the development of systems for monitoring and early warning of SDS in the countries of the region. This approach involves consolidating scientific and technical capacity, developing mechanisms for the exchange of data and technologies, strengthening regional cooperation, and expanding collaboration with international organizations (UNCCD, WMO, FAO, etc.) and development partners in the field of SDS management.

Chapter 2. Goals and Objectives of the Concept

3. The main goal of the Concept is to establish a unified approach to the development of a regional system for monitoring and early warning of SDS, as well as to define the main directions, mechanisms, and principles of interstate cooperation.

4. The objectives of the Concept are:

− identifying priority areas for cooperation among participating countries in the field of SDS monitoring and early warning, which involves developing coordinated approaches and areas of cooperation among the countries of the region in the field of observation, analysis, early warning, and risk reduction related to SDS;

− the establishment of institutional mechanisms for coordinating efforts in this area, including the creation of organizational structures and mechanisms for cooperation among countries and other stakeholders to coordinate joint activities and facilitate the exchange of information;

− creating the conditions for establishing a regional system for SDS monitoring and early warning, ensuring the timely identification and assessment of risks associated with the SDS occurrence and spread, focused on developing coordinated mechanisms for monitoring, analyzing, and warning of SDS based on modern methods of monitoring, data processing, and risk assessment;

− developing mechanisms for the prompt exchange of hydrometeorological, climatic, environmental, and other information among countries in the region, including improving procedures for cross-border data exchange, developing digital platforms, and ensuring the compatibility of information systems and data formats;

− facilitating the development of scientific and technical capacity in the field of SDS monitoring and modeling, including support for scientific research, development

[5] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). 2022. Compendium of Sand and Dust Storms: Summary for Decision Makers. Bonn, Germany.

of technical infrastructure, implementation of modern analytical methods, and expansion of scientific cooperation in the field of SDS;

− creating the appropriate conditions for the implementation of modern technologies and innovative methods for the analysis, assessment, and early warning of SDS, using satellite data, geographic information systems, automated monitoring systems, numerical modeling techniques, and digital information processing technologies;

− enhancing human resource capacity through the training of specialists, the organization of training programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives aimed at improving educational and training programs, conducting training sessions, seminars, and internships, as well as expanding professional cooperation among countries in the region;

− developing cooperation with international organizations, research institutions, and development partners to draw on best practices, technologies, and financial support, including the implementation of joint projects and programs, the promotion of international scientific and technical cooperation, and the mobilization of international technical and financial assistance in the field of SDS combating.

Chapter 3. Priority Areas of the Concept

5. The Concept provides for:

− Establishment of a regional system for monitoring atmospheric processes related to the SDS formation and spread, based on satellite data, and automated observation systems;

− developing monitoring of dust sources, including those associated with land degradation and desertification;

− the establishment and development of regional mechanisms for the prompt exchange of hydrometeorological, climatic, environmental, and satellite information;

− improving SDS modeling techniques;

− development of an information and analytical platform;

− enhancing scientific, technical, and human resources capacity in the field of SDS monitoring and early warning;

− the advancement of scientific research and the implementation of innovative methods for assessing the risks posed by SDSs to public health, the environment, and economic sectors;

− strengthening regional and international cooperation, including collaboration with international organizations, research centers, financial institutions, and development partners.

Chapter 4. Key Provisions and Priority Areas of the Regional Sand and Dust Storm Monitoring and Early Warning System

6. The goal of developing a Regional SDS Monitoring and Early Warning System is to ensure the timely detection of SDS and to promptly notify the public and relevant agencies in order to minimize negative impact on the population, the environment, and economic sectors. The objectives of the system for monitoring are:

improving methods for monitoring atmospheric processes using satellite data, automated ground-based weather stations, and air quality observations;

− the development of SDS modeling methods aimed at assessing their intensity and spatial distribution, and determining the transport trajectories of dust aerosols;

− establishing effective channels for promptly alerting the public and stakeholders to the emergence of SDS threat;

− building the capacity of professionals in the field of SDS monitoring, assessment, and early warning.

7. The SDS Monitoring and Early Warning System represents a comprehensive multi-level structure consisting of interconnected components that ensure monitoring, assessment, early warning, and dissemination of information on the risks associated with the occurrence and spread of SDS events.

Monitoring ensures continuous observation of atmospheric, climatic, and environmental conditions contributing to the formation of SDS, as well as the assessment of their intensity, spatial extent, and movement dynamics. Monitoring is carried out on the basis of hydrometeorological observations, automated groundbased meteorological stations, air quality monitoring data, satellite observations, and lidar observations.

Dust source assessment is aimed at the identification, characterization, and monitoring of areas that represent potential dust emission sources. Particular attention is given to regions affected by land degradation, desertification, dried water bodies, and areas with disturbed vegetation cover. Within this component, mapping of active dust source areas should be carried out. To address these tasks, satellite data, ground survey results, land use information, and other relevant datasets are utilized.

The SDS early warning component provides assessment of the probability of SDS occurrence, identification of potential dust dispersion areas, and preparation of Warning notifications. The implementation of these tasks is based on the application of modern data analysis methods and modeling using satellite information.

The information dissemination component is intended to ensure the timely delivery of information on the risks associated with the occurrence and spread of SDS to relevant stakeholders. Information dissemination may be carried out through a web-platform.

8. The functioning of the SDS monitoring and early warning system is based on a set of key principles ensuring its effectiveness, reliability, and adaptability:

− Continuity of monitoring. The system shall ensure continuous monitoring of atmospheric processes through the use of satellite and ground-based observation systems for the timely detection of signs indicating SDS formation;

Timeliness of information dissemination. Notification of the population, governmental authorities, and emergency services regarding SDS threats shall be carried out as promptly as possible upon receipt of reliable information, minimizing response time to potential hazards;

− Accessibility of information. Information on SDS-related risks shall be open and accessible to all relevant users, taking into account the need to adapt communication messages for different target audiences, including the public, enterprises, and governing authorities;

− Scientific basis of early warning. All forecasting models and risk assessment algorithms shall be based on modern scientific research and empirical data, and continuously updated in accordance with new knowledge regarding SDS formation and propagation processes;

− System adaptability and development. The system shall be capable of promptly adapting its procedures and technical solutions in response to changing climatic conditions, the emergence of new monitoring and forecasting technologies, and advances in risk assessment approaches.

Chapter 5. Institutional Mechanisms for the Implementation of the Concept

9. In order to ensure coordination of activities, strengthen regional cooperation, and establish unified approaches in the field of SDS monitoring and early warning, the establishment of an institutional cooperation framework among countries of the region, national authorized bodies, scientific organizations, and international partners is envisaged.

The key elements of the institutional mechanism include:

(1) Regional Center for Sand and Dust Storm Monitoring and Early Warning;

(2) Coordinating Council for the Development of the Regional SDS Monitoring and Early Warning System;

(3) Technical Working Group responsible for providing scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Concept.

10. The Regional Center for SDS Monitoring and Early Warning serves as a regional platform for coordinating activities in the field of SDS monitoring, analysis, and early warning.

The tasks and functions of the Regional Center for SDS Monitoring and Early Warning include:

− Development and enhancement of the regional SDS monitoring and early warning system;

− Organization of prompt exchange of hydrometeorological, climatic, and environmental information;

monitoring of atmospheric processes associated with the formation, transport, and propagation of SDS;

− practical implementation of regional atmospheric dust transport models within the SDS early warning system;

− promotion and development of research activities in the field of SDS;

− development of scientific, technical, and human resource capacities of the countries of the region

− preparation of analytical materials, assessments, and recommendations for the prevention and mitigation of SDS impacts;

− development of cooperation with international organizations, research centers, and development partners.

11. The Coordinating Council for the Development of the Regional SDS Monitoring and Early Warning System ensures coordination of interstate cooperation, alignment of priority areas of collaboration, and support for the implementation of joint programs and projects. The Coordinating Council interacts with international organizations, financial institutions, and development partners, facilitates the development of information exchange mechanisms among countries of the region, and addresses issues related to the improvement of the regional SDS monitoring and
early warning system. The Council consists of representatives of authorized bodies of participating countries, scientific organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

12. The Technical Working Group provides scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Concept, coordinates cooperation among specialists from the countries of the region, develops harmonized methodological approaches and recommendations, and facilitates the exchange of data, technologies, and experience. The activities of the Working Group are aimed at the development of SDS monitoring, analysis, modeling, and early warning systems, ensuring compatibility of observation and data processing methods, as well as preparing proposals for the implementation of modern technologies and innovative solutions.

13. Interaction among countries of the region is carried out through regular information exchange, joint consultations, meetings, training activities, and scientific and technical programs. Coordination of activities at the regional level is ensured through cooperation between national authorized bodies and the Regional Center, the Coordinating Council, and the Technical Working Group.

14. The institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Concept are aimed at ensuring the sustainable functioning of the regional SDS monitoring and early warning system, enhancing the effectiveness of interstate cooperation, and strengthening the scientific and technical capacities of the countries of the region.

Chapter 6. Key Principles of Cooperation

15. Cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Concept is based on the principles of mutual trust, equal partnership, and coordination of actions among the countries of the region in the field of SDS monitoring and early warning.

The main principles of cooperation include:

− mutual respect for the interests and sovereignty of participating states;

− coordination of regional efforts in the field of SDS monitoring and early warning;

− ensuring the sustainability and long-term development of the regional SDS monitoring and early warning system;

− timely exchange of hydrometeorological, climatic, environmental, and satellite data;

− the scientific justification of the decisions made and the methods used;

− compatibility of information systems, data, and methodological approaches;

− openness to international cooperation and interaction with international organizations and development partners;

− promotion of joint scientific research, programs, and projects;

− organization of training activities, workshops, seminars, and capacity-building programs for specialists.

Chapter 7. Financing and Incentive Mechanisms for the Implementation of the Concept

16. Financing of activities related to the implementation of the Concept may be provided through national budgets of the countries of the region, international financial institutions, grant programs, resources of international organizations and development partners, as well as other sources.

In order to implement the Concept, measures will be taken to develop mechanisms for attracting international technical and financial assistance, as well as to support joint regional projects and scientific research.

Chapter 8. Expected Outcomes of the Concept

17. The implementation of the Concept is expected to result in the establishment and development of the following organizational, scientific and technical, and information mechanisms within the regional SDS monitoring and early warning system:

− Regional Center for SDS Monitoring and Early Warning, serving as a coordination hub for cooperation with other regional dust centers within the WMO SDS-WAS framework;

− Coordinating Council for the Development of the Regional SDS Monitoring and Early Warning System, responsible for regional cooperation in information

exchange, collaboration with international organizations and development partners, and support
for the implementation of joint programs and projects in the field of SDS mitigation;

− Technical Working Group, responsible for coordinating scientific and technical cooperation, developing methodological approaches, facilitating the exchange of data and technologies, and supporting activities related to SDS monitoring, modeling, and early warning;

− harmonized standards and indicators for SDS monitoring at the regional level;

− regional SDS monitoring system and monitoring of SDS sources, including those associated with land degradation and desertification; − regional SDS early warning system; − online platform for SDS early warning.

Chapter 9. Final Provisions

18. The Concept defines the main directions for the development of regional cooperation in the field of sand and dust storm monitoring and early warning among the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization and serves as a basis for establishing harmonized approaches to SDS mitigation.

The implementation of the Concept will contribute to the development of the regional SDS monitoring and early warning system, improvement of information exchange mechanisms, strengthening of scientific and technical capacities, and enhancement of the preparedness of countries in the region for risks associated with SDS impacts.

The development of cooperation within the framework of the Concept envisages strengthening interaction among countries of the region, international organizations, universities, research centers, and development partners with the aim of introducing modern technologies for SDS monitoring, analysis, and early warning.

The Concept may serve as a basis for the development of joint programs, action plans, and other documents aimed at enhancing SDS monitoring and early warning systems at both national and regional levels.

Annex - VII

ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030)

Preamble

The Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO):

Acknowledging the vital role of a healthy environment for life on Earth, human well-being, and sustainable economic development; and that some human activities in the ECO Region have raised serious environmental challenges, making conservation and sustainable management a core regional priority;

Recognizing the critical importance of biodiversity for sustaining all life on Earth, and **Committed to** contributing to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's goal of "living in harmony with nature by 2050";

Emphasizing the urgency of fostering sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development to address the climate change challenge;

Alarmed by the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, which exacerbate desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity in our often arid and vulnerable region, and **Guided** by the findings of the UNCCD Global Land Outlook (2022);

Inspired by the ECO Vision 2025 objective to "increase the standard of living, quality of life, economic welfare and well-being of our people" through environmental preservation, which requires concerted action to tackle common challenges;

Building upon the Foundation of the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2016-2020) and the decisions of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in Samarkand in 3 June 2026;

Have agreed to promote the following Cooperation Framework on the Environment for the ECO Region:

Article 1: Objectives

The Member States agree to promote synergies and coordinate efforts to achieve the following objectives:

1.1. To strengthen regional cooperation for environmental protection, enhancing the ECO's role through coordinated actions at all levels, as appropriate,

supported by a robust monitoring and review mechanism among the relevant bodies within the ECO.

1.2. To mainstream biodiversity conservation, its sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources into regional and national development policies.

1.3. To integrate low-carbon and climate-resilient development approaches into policies and strategies, boosting financial and technical assistance for mitigation, adaptation, and green growth.

1.4. To combat land degradation, desertification, and sand and dust storms by facilitating cooperation on long-term solutions, sustainable land management, and drylands restoration.

1.5. To enhance actions by all sectors of society, including governments, indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, and the private sector, in support of global environmental goals.

1.6. To realize the environmental sustainability objectives of ECO Vision 2025 through enhanced regional cooperation.

Article 2: Implementation and Institutional Arrangements

2.1. Two Expert Groups on Biodiversity and Climate Change, composed of focal points from Member States, shall be established to coordinate the implementation of the annexed Work Programs.

2.2. The ECO Secretariat shall facilitate communications, meetings, and documentation, and will develop a light-touch Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework with clear indicators to track progress.

2.3. Member States are invited to submit on a voluntary and biennial basis, relevant information, and updates to the ECO Secretariat. The Secretariat can facilitate the exchange of information and prepare a consolidated overview of regional development to be shared for information purposes.

Article 3: Resource Mobilization

The Member States, in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat:

3.1. Agree to consider the possibility to develop a dedicated Resource Mobilization Strategy to secure financial and technical resources for the Framework's implementation. This strategy will prioritize:

- Leveraging existing regional and international financial mechanisms (e.g., the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund).
- Engaging with regional development banks, international donors, and the private sector.
- Exploring other options to fund flagship regional initiatives.

Article 4: Thematic Areas of Cooperation

Member States agree to encourage and facilitate cooperation in the following thematic areas, with specific indicative activities detailed in the Annexes on Biodiversity and Climate Change:

4.1. Natural Environment:

- Land: Promote integrated spatial planning, especially in drylands.

4.2. Human Environment:

- Energy: Develop strategies for energy efficiency, renewable energy investment, regional power trade.
- Settlements: Enhance urban and rural resilience through improved waste management, air and water quality, disaster risk response, and green infrastructure.
- Industry: Encourage responsible industrial practices to reduce pollution and advance low-carbon, circular business models, including zero-waste approaches.

4.3. Cross-Cutting Priorities:

- Planning: Implement and update National Action Plans for biodiversity and climate change.
- Health & Food Security: Promote ecosystem-based approaches for health protection and climate-smart agriculture for food security.
- Circular Economy: Foster a shift to a circular economy by integrating green financing and incentive measures into all economic sectors.

4.4. Mainstreaming Actions:

- Data and Information: Strengthen mechanisms for environmental data collection and exchange.
- CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness): Encourage capacity-building, technology transfer, joint research, and the inclusion of traditional knowledge.
- Participatory Approach: Engage all relevant stakeholders.
- Global Collaboration: Enhance coordination with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including through preparatory meetings for COPs to develop common regional positions where appropriate.

Final Provisions

This Framework is a voluntary instrument of regional cooperation and is not intended to create legally binding rights or obligations under international law. (The specific activities outlined in the Annexes [Annex 1: Work Program on Climate Change; Annex 2: Work Program on Biodiversity] are for further consideration and implementation by Member States according to their national capacities, priorities, and legislation.)

Annex I: ECO Work Program on Climate Change (2026-2030)

Preamble:

The Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO):

Guided by the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as the foundational framework for global climate action;

Acknowledging that the climate challenge has implication for sustainable development, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable regions, including many within ECO, exacerbating water scarcity, food insecurity, and ecosystem degradation;

Recognizing the dual challenge of recovering from the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic while addressing the urgent need for a systemic shift towards a green, resilient, and inclusive development model;

Building upon the legacy of the "Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2016-2020)" and inter-governmentally agreed outcomes of recent UNFCCC COPs;

Emphasizing the critical importance of regional cooperation in enhancing ambition, sharing knowledge, pooling resources, and developing a strong, unified voice in global climate negotiations as appropriate;

Hereby adopt this voluntary Work Program on Climate Change to accelerate collective action for a sustainable future in the ECO Region.

1. Strategic Objectives

This Work Program aims to:

1.1. Mainstream Climate Action: Integrate ambitious, low-carbon, and climate-resilient approaches into all relevant regional, national, and sub-national policies, plans, and development strategies.

1.2. Enhance Implementation & Cooperation: Foster synergies and coordinated action among Member States to implement regional priorities, supported by harmonized standards, regular monitoring, and knowledge exchange.

1.3. Mobilize Finance & Investment: Catalyze public, private, and international financial flows and technical assistance towards mitigation and adaptation projects, prioritizing just transitions and green recovery.

1.4. Build Systemic Resilience: Strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities, economies, and ecosystems to withstand current and future climate impacts, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

1.5. Empower Broader Society: Enable actions by all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, and youth.

2. Implementation and Governance

2.1. **Expert Group on Climate Change (EGCC):** Composed of national focal points, the EGCC will be the primary technical body for steering implementation, reviewing progress, and proposing adaptive management of this Work Program. It will meet at least annually.

2.2. **Coordinating Role of the ECO Secretariat:** The Secretariat will facilitate the EGCC's work, coordinate cross-sectoral collaboration, support reporting, and act as a liaison with international partners and agreements.

2.3. **Technical Support:** Implementation will be supported by relevant ECO agencies and institutions, including but not limited to the ECO Specialized Agencies in the fields of energy, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction, as well as through partnerships with accredited regional and international scientific bodies for capacity-building, technology transfer, joint research, and knowledge management.

2.4. **Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL):** A light-touch MEL framework with clear, agreed-upon indicators will be established. Member States are encouraged to submit voluntary biennial progress summaries. The Secretariat will synthesize these into a regional progress report shared learning.

3. Resource Mobilization Strategy

To translate ambition into action, ECO Member States, with support from the Secretariat, agrees to:

3.1. **Developing a Joint Resource Mobilization Plan:** This plan will identify priority projects and map them onto potential funding sources, including:

- International Climate Finance (Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund).

- Multilateral and Regional Development Banks.

- Bilateral donor agencies.

- Private sector investment and blended finance mechanisms.

3.2. **Exploring an ECO Climate Project Pipeline:** Creating a vetted portfolio of bankable regional and national projects to attract larger-scale investment.

3.3. **Strengthening National Enabling Environments:** Supporting policy and regulatory reforms to de-risk and incentivize green investments.

4. Priority Areas for Action

Member States are encouraged to collaborate and advance actions within the following interconnected pillars, tailoring them to national contexts:

Pillar A: Planning & Enabling Environment

A.1. Enhanced NDCs & Long-Term Strategies: Support the formulation and implementation of increasingly ambitious and actionable Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).

A.2. Climate Governance: Strengthen institutional, legal, and policy frameworks for integrated climate action, including effective carbon pricing, subsidy reform, and green fiscal policies.

A.3. Green and Circular Economy: Foster a systemic shift by mainstreaming circular economy principles and green growth strategies into economic recovery plans and sectoral policies, including through the promotion of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE).

Pillar B: Mitigation and Low-Carbon Transition

B.1. Energy Transition: Accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, enhance regional energy connectivity and trade, improve energy efficiency across all sectors, and advanced efforts to reform inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

B.2. Sustainable Transport: Promote fleet modernization, fuel switching to low-carbon alternatives, electrification of transport, and investment in high-quality public transit and non-motorized infrastructure.

B.3. Industry & Cities: Drive industrial decarbonization through innovation, energy efficiency, and sustainable supply chain management. Support cities in implementing integrated urban planning for low-carbon, resilient, and livable communities (e.g., green buildings, sustainable waste management).

B.4. Sustainable Land Use & Food Systems: Promote climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management, and food value chain interventions that reduce emissions, enhance carbon sinks, and improve food security.

Pillar C: Adaptation & Resilience

C.1. Climate & Health: Develop early warning systems and preparedness plans for climate-sensitive health risks (e.g., heat waves, vector-borne diseases).

C.2. Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Protect, restore, and sustainably manage natural ecosystems (mountains, drylands, and coastal zones) as critical infrastructure for resilience.

Pillar D: Cross-Cutting Support

D.1. Data, Knowledge & CEPA: Facilitate regional climate data sharing, best practices, and technologies driven by the World Meteorological Organization Standards. Implement robust Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) programs, respecting and integrating Traditional Knowledge (TK).

D.2. Inclusive Participation: Encourage the participation of relevant stakeholders, including sub-national authorities, indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector, on climate-related dialogues.

D.3. Global & Regional Solidarity: Enhance coordination in international forums, including through pre-COP regional consultations, to share experiences and develop common positions where feasible, amplifying the ECO region's voice.

This Work Program shall be reviewed periodically by the Expert Group on Climate Change to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in light of scientific developments and evolving global commitments.

Annex II: ECO Work Program on Biodiversity (2026-2030)

Preamble:

The Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO):

Recognizing that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are the foundation of life on Earth, underpinning human well-being, cultural identity, and sustainable development across the ECO Region;

Acknowledging the rich and unique biological heritage of the ECO Region, encompassing diverse mountain ranges, vast drylands, inland waters, coastal zones, and marine environments that provide essential ecosystem services to our peoples;

Guided by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada (December 2022), which sets an ambitious pathway towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature" through its four goals and 23 action-oriented targets for 2030;

Building upon the foundation of the previous Work Plan on Biodiversity in the ECO Region (2016-2020) and the outcomes of relevant regional consultations;

Emphasizing that achieving the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal GBF requires enhanced approaches in economic, social, and financial paradigms, coupled with enhanced regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and collective action;

Recognizing the interlinkages between biodiversity conservation and other global challenges, including climate change, desertification, land degradation, and sustainable development;

Hereby adopt this voluntary Work Program on Biodiversity to guide coordinated regional action for the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity in the ECO Region.

1. Strategic Objectives

This Work Program aims to:

1.1. Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss: Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across the ECO Region, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, putting nature on a path to recovery by 2030 in line with the Kunming-Montreal GBF targets.

1.2. Mainstream Biodiversity: Integrate biodiversity values and considerations into regional and national development policies, plans, and strategies across all sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, trade, and finance.

1.3. Empower All of Society: Encourage efforts by governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols (Cartagena and Nagoya), and other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.

1.4. Strengthen Regional Cooperation: Foster synergies and coordination among Member States for effective implementation of biodiversity activities at regional, national, and sub-national levels, supported by regular monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms.

1.5. Contribute to the 2030 Agenda: Advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and related goals on food security, water, health, and climate action.

2. Implementation & Governance

2.1. Expert Group on Biodiversity (EGB): Composed of national focal points from Member States, the EGB will serve as the primary technical body for steering implementation, reviewing progress, and proposing adaptive management of this Work Program. It shall meet at least annually.

2.2. Coordinating Role of the ECO Secretariat: The Secretariat will facilitate the EGB's work, coordinate cross-sectoral collaboration, support reporting, and act as a liaison with the CBD Secretariat and other international partners.

2.3. Technical Support: Implementation will be supported by relevant ECO institutions and specialized agencies, including those focused on agriculture, food security, trade, and science and technology, as well as through partnerships with regional and international scientific bodies, research institutions, and centers of excellence for capacity-building, technology transfer, joint research, and knowledge management.

2.4. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL): A light-touch MEL framework aligned with the Kunming-Montreal GBF monitoring framework will be established. Member States are encouraged to submit voluntary biennial progress summaries. The Secretariat will synthesize these into a regional biodiversity progress report, shared learning, and information purposes.

3. Resource Mobilization Strategy

To translate ambition into action, ECO Member States, with support from the Secretariat, agree to:

3.1. Supporting Member State Access to International Finance: Recognizing that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other international funds operate on a constituency basis, Member States will be encouraged and supported in their efforts to access available resources, including:

- The GEF biodiversity focal area and its capacity-building initiatives for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.
- The Kunming Biodiversity Fund and other international biodiversity finance mechanisms.
- Bilateral donor agencies and development cooperation partners.

3.2. Leveraging Regional and Multilateral Development Finance: Engage with multilateral and regional development banks (e.g., Islamic Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) to secure financing for regional biodiversity projects and programs.

3.3. Developing an ECO Biodiversity Project Pipeline: Create a vetted portfolio of bankable regional and national projects to attract investment, including transboundary conservation initiatives, ecosystem restoration programs, and sustainable value chain development, for presentation to potential donors and financial institutions.

3.4. Strengthening National Enabling Environments: Support policy and regulatory reforms to remove perverse incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity, and to create positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use.

4. Priority Areas for Action

Member States are encouraged to collaborate and advance actions within the following interconnected pillars, tailoring them to national contexts and aligning with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

Pillar A: Planning and Enabling Environment

A.1. Enhanced NBSAPs: Support the updating and effective implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal GBF, ensuring integration of biodiversity into national development planning, poverty reduction strategies, and sectoral policies.

A.2. Biodiversity Assessment and Valuation: Enhance tools and methodologies for biodiversity assessment, ecosystem service valuation, and natural capital accounting to inform evidence-based decision-making and integrate biodiversity into national accounting systems.

A.3. Policy Coherence and Incentives: Promote policy reforms to align economic and regulatory incentives with biodiversity goals, repurpose subsidies harmful to biodiversity, and develop positive incentive measures for conservation and sustainable use.

Pillar B: Conservation & Restoration

B.1. Protected Areas and OECMs: Strengthen national and transboundary protected area systems to ensure at least 30% of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed, recognizing the importance of biodiversity hotspots and ecological connectivity. Promote Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

B.2. Ecosystem Restoration: Support ecosystem restoration initiatives targeting degraded landscapes, including forests, wetlands, drylands, and coastal ecosystems, to enhance biodiversity, climate resilience, and ecosystem services.

B.3. Species Conservation: Implement active management measures for the conservation and recovery of threatened species, including through ex-situ conservation, reintroduction programs, and implementation of CITES provisions to ensure sustainable and legal wildlife trade.

B.4. Invasive Alien Species: Strengthen regional cooperation to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species, with a focus on priority species and pathways, in line with Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

B.5. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: Take precautionary measures to safeguard and monitor marine and coastal ecosystems, including the Caspian Sea and other water bodies, addressing pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation.

B.6. Climate Change and Biodiversity: Reduce the impact of climate change on biodiversity and contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, striving for net-positive impacts.

Pillar C: Sustainable Use and Benefit-Sharing

C.1. Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Land Management: Promote sustainable management practices in agriculture, pastoralism, aquaculture, and forestry to enhance productivity, resilience, and biodiversity outcomes, including through agroecological approaches and sustainable forest management. Ensure integrated spatial planning for all landscapes, particularly in dry ecosystems, to address desertification, erosion, and sand and dust storms.

C.2. Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS): Develop and implement national and regional policies to ensure adequate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, including the appropriate use of related traditional knowledge, in line with the Nagoya Protocol.

C.3. Sustainable Value Chains and Business Engagement: Promote sustainable extraction, production, sourcing, certification, and trade practices across supply chains to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, encouraging private sector engagement through initiatives such as the ECO Green Award and business biodiversity pledges.

C.4. Health and Biodiversity: Improve nature's contributions to air, land, and water quality, protect people from severe natural occurrences, and enhance human health and well-being through biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-based approaches.

C.5. Ecotourism: Encourage responsible and sustainable ecotourism initiatives that support local communities, raise awareness of biodiversity values, and mitigate potential adverse effects on ecosystems.

Pillar D: Cross-Cutting Support

D.1. Data, Information and Knowledge Sharing: Facilitate the establishment of regional mechanisms for biodiversity data sharing, and harmonization, including collaboration with the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism and national biodiversity information systems. Address potential risks of new technologies on biodiversity and human health, including through appropriate biosafety measures under the Cartagena Protocol.

D.2. CEPA and Traditional Knowledge: Strengthen Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) programs to enhance understanding of biodiversity values and engage all sectors of society. Respect, preserve, and integrate Traditional Knowledge (TK) and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

D.3. Inclusive Participation: Encourage the participation of all relevant stakeholders in biodiversity-related dialogues.

D.4. Regional and Global Collaboration: Enhance coordination and cooperation, in consultation with Member States with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (including CITES, CMS, Ramsar, UNCCD and ITPGRFA) through inter-ministerial collaboration and regional consultation mechanisms. Strengthen regional preparatory processes for meetings of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) and other relevant forums to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and develop common positions where feasible, amplifying the ECO region's voice.

This Work Program shall be reviewed periodically by the Expert Group on Biodiversity to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in light of scientific developments, evolving global commitments, and progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

Annex - VIII

Keynote Remarks by Ms. Fatou Haidara, Deputy to the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the

6th Ministerial Meeting on Environment of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

It is a great honour to address the Ministerial Meeting on Environment of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) here in the historic city of Samarkand.

For centuries, Samarkand stood at the heart of the Silk Road, pioneering the exchange of goods, innovations, and ideas.

Today, we gather here to build a new kind of exchange – one defined by sustainability, resource efficiency, and the principles of a circular economy.

Allow me first to commend the ECO Secretariat and our host country, Uzbekistan, for convening this important gathering at a key moment for regional environmental cooperation. Today's agenda reflects the breadth of our shared priorities—from climate change and biodiversity loss to advancing circular economy pathways.

In this context, the UNIDO Industrial Development Report 2026 highlights that building future-ready industrial ecosystems requires a coordinated shift in three mutually reinforcing directions: decarbonization, improved energy efficiency, and increased circularity.

In this framing, circularity is not an add-on to industrial policy. It is an integral component of how we redesign production systems to use resources more efficiently, reduce waste, and extend the value of materials across their lifecycle.

For ECO member States, this agenda is particularly relevant. Many economies across the region are managing the dual imperative of accelerating industrial growth while improving environmental performance. The report underscores that this is not a trade-off. It is increasingly a shared pathway: strengthening industrial competitiveness while reducing environmental pressure through more resource-efficient and circular production systems.

UNIDO is privileged to contribute to this collective effort by actively supporting you, our Member States. In particular, I wish to highlight the joint ECO–UNIDO project, Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region. This was developed in **direct support of ECO's Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy (RESCUE).**

Launched in 2024 at the COP29 in Baku, RESCUE has rapidly **become a flagship regional alliance**. It successfully aligns ECO Member States with global momentum toward resource efficiency and circularity. Building directly on this strong foundation,

UNIDO and ECO jointly championed the initiative at the World Circular Economy Forum, in 2025.

And to translate this high-level ambition into action, **we would like to work with ECO countries in shaping a shared vision for circular economic transformation**. This project will help countries identify strategic opportunities, prioritize high-potential sectors, and develop pathways that align circular economy with national development goals, regional cooperation priorities, and a just, inclusive transition.

We see this initiative not only as a regional platform for collaboration, but as **the primary vehicle to connect ECO countries with global partners, knowledge networks, and investment opportunities**.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you proceed with your deliberations on the Cooperation Framework, the Samarkand Declaration, and the future of RESCUE, **UNIDO stands ready to help you translate this vision into practice**.

We bring our expertise in promoting sustainable, inclusive industrial development; as well as our mandate to champion the circular economy for resource-efficient industrialization. This combination enables us to integrate your regional efforts into the broader, global agenda.

Let me conclude by inviting Uzbekistan and all ECO Member States to support this joint initiative, which is part of your deliberations today.

We look forward to working closely with you to ensure the ECO region emerges as a leader in the circular economy transition, driving sustainable industrial development, competitive economies, and resilient societies.

Thank you.

Annex - XI

Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation

6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment
Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan
3 June 2026

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), meeting in Samarkand on 3 June 2026 for the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment under the overarching theme "New Horizons for Enhanced Regional Environmental Action through Collaborative Solutions",

Recalling the foundational commitments of the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in Istanbul in 2014, which designated environment and climate change impacts as cross-sectoral priorities of the Organization,

Further recalling the ECO Vision 2025 and its Implementation Framework, as well as the ECO Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, which highlight environmental protection, resilience, and the transition to a low-carbon development model as a priority area and policy focus,

Recognizing that our shared geography binds our nations together, and that environmental degradation in one Member State can swiftly become an economic, and humanitarian challenge in another,

Taking note of the outcomes of the Regional Ecological Summit held in Astana in April 2026 as a significant mid-year milestone for aligning our regional environmental ambitions,

Welcoming the ongoing and past successful leadership of ECO Member States – Türkiye and Azerbaijan, respectively in global climate negotiations and hosting 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Baku and COP31 in Türkiye,

Noting the importance of strategic engagement with global partners, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as well as active participation in international platforms such as the Conferences of Parties (COPs) of environmental conventions,

Emphasizing the critical need for enhanced regional environmental coordination, collaborative policy making, shared innovation, and inclusive multilateralism to safeguard our common future,

Having considered the recommendations of the Senior Officials Meeting/8th Working Group on Environment held on 2 June 2026, and the outcomes of the first meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation held on 23 April 2026,

Hereby resolve to:

1. **Adopt** the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) as the overarching non-binding regional strategic document to guide environmental cooperation over the coming years, and its two thematic annexes: the Work Program on Climate Change in the ECO Region (2026-2030) and the Work Program on Biodiversity in the ECO Region (2026-2030).

2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the implementation of these frameworks, recognizing that national action plans are essential, but their effectiveness is magnified when aligned with a cohesive regional strategy.

3. **Support** the continuation and consolidation of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a vital mechanism for bringing together all relevant stakeholders to brainstorm, exchange knowledge, and drive regional environmental action.

4. **Call upon** the Member States to explore and support concrete steps within the national capacities to advance the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy (RESCUE), with a focus on implementation timelines, resource mobilization, and tangible, measurable results.

5. **Recognize** that land degradation and desertification are longstanding and intensifying environmental challenges in the ECO region, severely affecting human health, agricultural productivity, infrastructure, and socio-economic well-being. We therefore underscore the significance of further coordinated regional cooperation to address these challenges through integrated land management, early warning system for dust and sand storms, reforestation and afforestation, water use, and knowledge sharing, while also leveraging relevant international frameworks and financing mechanisms.

6. **Call upon** the Member States within the national capacities to focus their contributions on the implementation of the existing frameworks and initiatives, providing concrete plans, expertise, technical assistance, and financial resources to accelerate progress, subject to voluntary funding by international partners, while avoiding overlaps and duplications.

7. **Encourage** the Member States to proactively engage in the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC and participate at the COP31 at the highest possible level and collectively push for positive outcomes that can align the ECO region's development with the targets of the Paris Agreement.

8. **Urge** the ECO Secretariat to continue strategic engagement with UNEP, UNIDO, and other international partners to foster green development, energy transition, effective resource management, circular economy practices, including the Zero Waste approach and to take the concerted actions in global environmental fora.

9. **Decide** to issue this Samarkand Declaration as a unified political statement of our commitment to action, and to transmit it to relevant ECO policy-making bodies for follow-up and integration into the broader ECO work program.

10. **Express** our profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the people of Samarkand for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements, which have contributed significantly to the success of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

11. **Agree** to convene the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment at a date and venue to be determined through the ECO Secretariat in consultation with Member States.

Adopted in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 3 June 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No:AI/2026/1099

Priority: Normal
Date: 1/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith the Final Report of the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, held on 23 September 2026 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, together with the related documents, for the information and record of the Member States, in accordance with the task assigned to the Secretariat by the Meeting.

The Secretariat respectfully requests the Member States to take note of the enclosed documents and facilitate their dissemination to the relevant national authorities for appropriate follow-up.

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

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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Final Report

The Third High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry

22 September 2026
Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

Final Report of the Third High-Level Experts Group Meeting on Industry

1. The 3rd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry was held on 22 September 2026 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The Meeting was attended by senior-level officials from the ECO Member States, including the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, the Islamic Republic of **Iran**, the Republic of **Kazakhstan**, the **Kyrgyz** Republic, the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, the Republic of **Tajikistan** (**Host Country**), the Republic of **Türkiye**, **Turkmenistan**, and the Republic of **Uzbekistan**, as well as representatives of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The ECO Secretariat delegation, headed by the Deputy Secretary General, participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No. 1
Inauguration and Welcoming Remarks

2. The Meeting was inaugurated with welcoming remarks by H.E. Mr. Aziz Nazar, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Nazar welcomed the delegates from the Member States and international partners, and highlighted the significance of resuming ECO's high-level engagement on industry after more than twenty years, emphasizing the potential to advance industrial cooperation through trade, investment, technology exchange and joint projects, and invited international partners to further engage in the ECO region's industrial and investment opportunities. A copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-II**.

3.Thereafter, Dr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, ECO Deputy Secretary General for Agriculture and Industry, delivered his opening remarks. In his remarks, Dr. Saberi Ansari welcomed the participants and expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, particularly the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, for the excellent arrangements. He noted that the deliberations of the Meeting would provide the technical foundation for a focused and action-oriented 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry. A copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No. 2
Election of the Chairperson

4. In accordance with the ECO Rules of Procedure, the Head of the Delegation of the Host Country, H.E. Mr. Aziz Nazar, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, was unanimously elected Chair of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Agenda, which is attached as **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No. 4
Appointment of Drafting Committee

6. An open-ended Drafting Committee, comprising representatives of the Member States and the ECO Secretariat, was appointed to prepare the draft outcome documents of the 3rd High-Level

Experts Group Meeting on Industry, and the 4thMinisterial Meeting on Industry, as appropriate, for consideration and adoption by the respective meetings.

Agenda Item No. 5
Exchange of Views on Progress in ECO Industry Cooperation

7. Mr. Can Aygul, Director for Agriculture and Industry at the ECO Secretariat, provided a brief overview of the priority areas of the ECO industrial cooperation agenda. A copy of his presentation is attached as **Annex-V**.

8. Following the presentation by the ECO Secretariat, Mr. Timur Yoribek, Head of the Department of For International Relations, Ministry of Industry and New Technology of the Republic of Tajikistan briefed the participants on the Tajikistan's priority areas for industrial cooperation and joint projects. A copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-VI**.

9. Thereafter, the Chairperson invited delegations to deliver country interventions and share their views on industrial cooperation and recent developments in their respective countries. Participants provided updates on national industrial priorities and ongoing initiatives and highlighted key areas for enhanced cooperation within the ECO Region.

Agenda Item No. 6
Presentations by Relevant International Organizations and ECO Specialized Bodies

10. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a relevant international organization active in the field of industrial development, delivered a presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached as **Annex-VII**.

11. The representatives of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM), an ECO specialized body working to strengthen quality infrastructure in the region, participated virtually in the Meeting and delivered a presentation on behalf of the Institute. A copy of the presentation is attached as **Annex-VIII**.

Agenda Item No. 7
Preparations for the 4thECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry

12. The Meeting considered and finalized the draft Agenda of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry. A copy of the draft Agenda is attached as **Annex-IX**.

13. The Meeting considered and finalized the draft Dushanbe Declaration, incorporating additional comments and observations from the Member States, for consideration and adoption by the 4thECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry as its principal outcome document. A copy of the final draft of the Dushanbe Declaration is attached as **Annex-X**.

14. The Meeting considered and finalized the draft Report of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry. A copy of the draft Report is attached as **Annex-XI**.

Agenda Item No. 8
Any Other Business

15. No other issue came for consideration under this Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 9

Consideration of the Date and Venue of the 4th ECO HLEG Meeting on Industry

16. The Meeting invited Member States to consider hosting the 4th HLEG Meeting on Industry. The ECO Secretariat was assigned to coordinate with the prospective host country to determine the date and venue through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item No.10

Adoption of the Report of the 3rdHigh-Level Experts Group (HLEG)Meeting on Industry

17. The Meeting considered and approved the draft Report of the 3rd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry, held on 22 September 2026 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The Meeting entrusted the ECO Secretariat with circulating the approved Report among the Member States. A copy of the approved report is attached as **Annex-XII**.

Agenda Item No.11

Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks

18. The 3rd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry concluded with a vote of thanks to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for its excellent arrangements for hosting the Meeting.

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

Final Report

The Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry

Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan
23 September 2026

Final Report of the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry

1. The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry was held on 23 September 2026 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the 3rd Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Industry, held on 22 September 2026.The Ministerial Meeting was attended by the Honourable Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of **Tajikistan (Host Country**), and Honourable Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States, namely the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyz** Republic, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, Republic of **Türkiye**, **Turkmenistan**, and Republic of **Uzbekistan**. Representatives of relevant regional and international organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**), and the Commonwealth of Independent States **(CIS)** also attended the Meeting. The ECO Secretariat delegation, headed by the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I.**

Agenda Item No. 2
Inauguration and Welcoming Statements

2. The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Honourable Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, and H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General.

3. In his inaugural statement, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General, warmly welcomed the Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and distinguished delegates to the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the Meeting. He underscored the particular significance of the Meeting, which marked the re-engagement of ECO Member States on industrial cooperation after a twenty-year hiatus since the last Ministerial Meeting on Industry, held in Lahore in 2006, noting that this presented both an opportunity and a responsibility to give renewed momentum to an area fundamental to the economic future of the region. He stressed the need to shift from dialogue to implementation, from priorities to joint initiatives, and from national efforts to stronger regional partnerships. In this context, he highlighted the potential for the Meeting's Declaration to advance a consolidated and streamlined ECO Regional Strategy on Industrial Cooperation, bringing together existing strategic instruments and plans of action into a coherent regional policy framework, while emphasizing the importance of strengthened intra-regional coordination and regular high-level policy dialogue. A copy of the statement is attached as **Annex-II.**

Agenda Item No. 3
Election of the Chairperson

4. In accordance with the ECO Rules of Procedure, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan (Host Country), H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Honourable Minister of Industry and New Technologies, was unanimously elected Chair of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4
Statement of the Chairperson and Adoption of the Agenda

5. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Honourable Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistanand Chairperson of the Meeting, emphasized the need to

move from the exchange of views and adoption of documents towards concrete projects, industrial cooperation and practical results. He highlighted Tajikistan's industrialization priorities and proposed strengthening cooperation among ECO Member States through joint industrial clusters and enterprises, industrial digitalization and AI, green technologies, regional transport and logistics chains, and joint programmes for human resource development. The Chairperson further proposed the development, within the ECO framework, of a practical Roadmap for Industrial Cooperation, identifying concrete projects, responsible stakeholders, implementation timelines and possible sources of financing, and called for greater involvement of international financial institutions, investment funds and the private sector. He also stressed the importance of strengthening existing ECO mechanisms, including ECO-RISCAM and the ECO Nanotechnology Network, and expressed Tajikistan's readiness for broad industrial cooperation, including the exchange of experience, attraction of investment and technologies, and implementation of concrete joint projects. A copy of the opening remarks is attached as **Annex-III.**

6. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Agenda of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, which is attached as **Annex-IV.**

Agenda Item No. 5
Statements by Ministers of Industry and Heads of Delegations of ECO Member States

7. The Honourable Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States delivered statements on regional industrial cooperation and national industrial developments, emphasizing the need for stronger regional cooperation to address global challenges affecting economic growth and industrial development. They reaffirmed their commitment to addressing existing bottlenecks and advancing industrial modernization, digitalization and sustainable development, while sharing updates on national policies and initiatives undertaken within the ECO framework. Participants expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the Ministerial Meeting and for its excellent arrangements and warm hospitality. Copies of the shared statements are attached as **Annex-V.**

Agenda Item No. 6
ECO Secretariat Report on Industrial Cooperation

8. The ECO Secretariat briefed the Ministerial Meeting on regional industrial cooperation and progress achieved across the agreed priority areas, including quality infrastructure (standardization, accreditation, metrology and conformity assessment), development of the nanotechnology network, promotion of industrial property rights (IPRs), support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurship, and strengthened international cooperation. The Secretariat highlighted the significant transformation and diversification of industrial capacities across the ECO Region over the past two decades, while emphasizing the growing importance of digitalization and emerging technologies and the considerable untapped potential for deeper industrial integration and intra-ECO trade. Looking ahead to the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, the Secretariat called for a more coherent, action-oriented and investment-driven approach, with stronger Member State engagement, collective efforts and effective implementation, and sought Ministerial support to strengthen existing mechanisms and translate the Region's complementary industrial capacities into concrete projects and tangible results. A copy of the ECO Secretariat's report is attached as **Annex-VI.**

Agenda Item No. 7
Report of the Chairperson of the 3rd HLEG Meeting on Industry

9. The Chairperson of the 3rd High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry, held on 22 September 2026 in Dushanbe, briefed the Ministerial Meeting on the outcomes of the deliberations in the relevant areas. A copy of the report of the 3rd HLEG Meeting is attached as **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item No. 8
Presentation and Adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Industry 2026

10. The Meeting considered and unanimously adopted the *Dushanbe Declaration on Revitalizing Regional Industrial Cooperation*. A copy of the final text of the *Dushanbe Declaration* is attached as **Annex-VIII.**

Agenda Item No. 9
Any Other Business

11. No other issue came for consideration under this Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 10
Consideration of the Date and Venue of the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Industry

12. The Meeting invited the interested Member States to offer to host the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry. Further details will be circulated through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item No. 11
Adoption of Report of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry

13. The Meeting considered and approved the draft Report of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, as finalized by the 3rdHLEG Meeting held on 22 September 2026 in Dushanbe. The Meeting entrusted the ECO Secretariat with circulating the approved Report among the Member States. A copy of the adopted report is attached as **Annex-IX.**

Agenda Item No. 12
Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks

14. The Meeting concluded with appreciation expressed to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for its hospitality and to H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Honourable Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, for his able chairmanship of the proceedings.

Side Event: The Second International Textile Forum

15. The Second International Textile Forum was successfully organized on the sidelines of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry. The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. H.E. Hokim Kholiqzoda, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, and brought together representatives from over 40 countries as a regional strategic platform covering the entire textile value chain. B2B meetings were also held, providing an opportunity for participants to discuss prospects for trade, investment and joint ventures in the textile sector.

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: TC /2026/1235

Priority: Urgent
Date: 25/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Adopted Report and Annexures of the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport preceded by Senior Officials' Meeting held on 14-15 October 2026 in Astana.

The Secretariat 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 Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

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Report
The 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport

Preceded by
Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

14-15 October, 2026

Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Report

The 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport was held on 15th October, 2026 in Astana, hosted by the Ministry Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan, preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 14th October 2026, alongside the New Silk Way Transport and Logistics Forum, aimed to exchange views on measures to improve regional connectivity and transit. The Ministerial Meeting focused on shared priorities, including regional connectivity, transport digitalization, trade facilitation and provided an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among regional and international partners. The Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegations of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan (Host), Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. Moreover, the meeting was also attended by the representatives of regional and international organizations. The ECO Secretariat's delegation was headed by the Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan. The list of the participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

Senior Official's Meeting on Transport (SOM)

2. The Senior Officials' Meeting on Transport (SOM) held on 14th October, 2026 discussed and finalized the Draft Agenda, Draft Astana Declaration and Draft *ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026-2035* as well as Draft Report for the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport. Additionally, the SOM reviewed the implementation of previous decisions, exchanged views on the current state of regional transport cooperation, and considered proposals for strengthening transit corridors and logistical linkages among member states. The meeting also harmonized positions on the above draft documents and recommended them for adoption by the Ministers during the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport. Agenda and Annotated Agenda of SOM is attached as **Annex-II**.

3. H.E. Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, ECO Deputy Secretary General, welcomed the participants to the Senior Officials' Meeting, convened to finalize preparations for the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, and expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for its hospitality and excellent arrangements in Astana. He recalled that the Senior Officials had two principal tasks before them: to review progress made since the last ECO Ministerial Meeting and to finalize preparations for the Ministerial Meeting the following day. Reporting on progress, he noted that the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035 had been prepared in line with the Tehran Declaration and current regional and international developments, with emphasis to be placed on practical short- and medium-term actions. He further reported progress on several ECO transport corridors and highlighted continued cooperation with UNECE, the ECO–IRU Joint Action Plan, consultations on an ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent, continued support for the Awaza Programme of Action for landlocked countries, preparations for an International

Financing Conference in the first half of 2027, the development of an ECO–China cooperation mechanism in transport and transit, and two completed studies on corridor development and railway digital modelling. He concluded by reaffirming the Secretariat's commitment to advancing transport cooperation across the ECO region and to strengthening connectivity among its Member States. Copy of his statement is as **Annex-III**.

4. The ECO Director for Transport, Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, briefed the delegations on the Draft ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035, prepared in accordance with the ECO Vision 2025 pursuant to the mandate of the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport. He referred to the Strategy's comprehensive roadmap for infrastructure development, regulatory coordination, sustainability, innovation and institutional cooperation across all modes of transport, together with its strategic vision for 2035, its strategic objectives, sectoral strategies, provisions on digitalization, cross-cutting priorities, implementation and monitoring arrangements, and the Phased Action Plan for 2026–2035. Emphasizing in particular the challenges encountered by landlocked countries, he underscored the importance of their uninterrupted access to regional and international markets and of strengthened cooperation among Member States and with regional and international partners in advancing the Strategy's objectives.

5. Ms. Zhanna JOLDASBEKOVA, Head of Delegation of Kazakhstan, welcomed the Senior Officials to this important event on Transport, convened in conjunction with the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport. She noted that the deliberations of the day would centre upon two principal documents: Astana Declaration and the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy 2026–2035, the latter providing the guiding framework for the future development of transport cooperation across the region. It was observed as highly symbolic that transport ministers had gathered once again in Kazakhstan, where the first such meeting had been held in Almaty in 1993 where the Almaty Outline Plan for the Development of the Transport sector in the ECO Region" had been adopted. She extended gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for its joint efforts in preparing the event. In conclusion, she expressed the expectation that the meeting would yield a positive and substantive outcome for the ECO region, strengthening connectivity, facilitating trade, and advancing sustainable and resilient transport among all member States. Copy of her statement is as **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No. 1
Inauguration of the Meeting:

6. H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General, welcomed the Ministers and Heads of Delegation to the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport in Astana and expressed sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Nurlan Sauranbaev, Minister of Transport of Kazakhstan, for hosting the event and for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to the participants. He noted with pleasure that the Meeting was being held for the second consecutive year, following the Ministerial Meeting in Tehran in June 2025, and reaffirmed that, despite prevailing geopolitical challenges, ECO remained firmly committed to implementing the decisions and priorities set out in the Tehran Declaration. Emphasizing that connectivity extends beyond physical infrastructure, he stressed the need for a comprehensive approach combining investment in transport infrastructure with trade facilitation, harmonization of procedures and greater regional economic integration, aimed at creating an enabling ecosystem for regional connectivity.

7. He highlighted the significance of the proposed ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035, which complements the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, and identified the connectivity needs of the seven landlocked Member States as an important priority, recalling ECO's cooperation with regional and international partners in support of the Awaza Programme of Action. Noting that financing remained a principal challenge, he stressed the need to move towards concrete, economically viable and bankable projects, appreciated Kazakhstan's contribution through two studies on the KTI Corridor and on railway digitalization, and invited the support of Member States and international financial institutions in taking them forward. He welcomed the dedicated dialogue with the private sector, commended Kazakhstan for facilitating this engagement, and stated that the Astana Declaration, together with the new Strategy, would provide further impetus to collective efforts. He concluded by emphasizing that the task before the Meeting was to translate the shared vision into tangible results and wished the Ministerial Meeting every success. Copy of his statement is as **Annex-V**.

Election of the Chairman:

8. In accordance with the ECO Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Zhanibek Taizhanov, Vice Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the "14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport".

9. H.E. Mr. Zhanibek Taizhanov, Vice Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan thanked the ECO Member States on his election as the Chairman of this important event and continued his statement.

10. Mr. Taizhanov welcomed the distinguished delegates to Astana. He appreciated the collective efforts and deliberations of the Senior Officials and the ECO Secretariat during the Senior Officials' Meeting, which centred upon two principal documents: the Draft Astana Declaration and the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035. He expressed confidence that both documents would be adopted, the latter serving as the guiding framework for the development of transport cooperation across the region over the coming decade. Recalling that the first ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport had been held in Kazakhstan in 1993, at which the Almaty Outline Plan for the Development of the Transport Sector in the ECO Region had been adopted, he noted with satisfaction that the present Meeting, hosted once again by Kazakhstan after thirty-three years, marked a significant milestone in the collective journey towards digitalized, resilient, and competitive connectivity networks.

11. He emphasized the strategic importance of enhanced intra-regional rail, road, maritime, air, and multimodal connectivity, not only for the Member States but also for neighbouring countries and regions, and reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to deepening collaboration and cooperation with all ECO Member States in removing bottlenecks, facilitating trade and transit, promoting the digitalization of transport, and ensuring the financial and environmental sustainability of regional corridors. He expressed confidence that the deliberations would yield a positive and substantive outcome, strengthening the unity of purpose among Member States and advancing the shared vision of a fully interconnected, sustainable, and prosperous ECO region. Copy of his statement is as **Annex-VI**.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of the Agenda:

12. In the absence of any objection, the meeting adopted its agenda unanimously as proposed by the ECO Secretariat and finalized by the preceding Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 14 October, 2026. Copy of agenda of the meeting is as **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item No.3
Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation

13. Under this agenda item, the honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations delivered their statements and exchanged views on measures to improve regional connectivity and transit. In their remarks, they thanked and appreciated the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting this important meeting and for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to all participants. They underscored the shared priorities of regional connectivity, transport digitalization and trade facilitation, and welcomed the opportunity afforded by the Meeting to strengthen regional cooperation within the ECO and with regional and international partners. In the course of their deliberations, particular attention was given to the promotion of connectivity across the ECO region, including the special needs and challenges of landlocked countries, with emphasis on facilitating their uninterrupted access to regional and international markets, enhancing

transit links, removing border and logistical bottlenecks, and advancing sustainable and resilient transport networks for the benefit of all Member States. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation further emphasized the importance of sustained collective action, effective implementation of agreed priorities and closer coordination among Member States, regional organizations and international partners in realizing the shared objectives of enhanced connectivity, expanded trade and inclusive economic development throughout the ECO region. Statements shared by the Member States are attached as **Annex-VIII**.

Agenda Item No.4
Adoption of the Ministerial outcomes as finalized by SOM

14. The Meeting appreciated the excellent work done at the Senior Officials Meeting on 14th October 2026 as well as preceding online expert-level preparatory meetings and adopted the **ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy 2026-2035 and Astana Declaration.** The delegation of **Kyrgyz Republic** expressed some observation regarding the handling of customs systems, air transport and corridor management in the Strategy. Accordingly, Kyrgyz Republic may revert back to these issues at the later stage when the relevant action plans for implementation of Strategy will be developed.

15. The meeting requested the Member States to ensure effective implementation of the measures and decisions contained in these two outcome documents. The Ministerial Meeting also adopted its final Report. Copies of the documents are enclosed as **Annex-IX and X**.

Agenda Item No.5
Closing Remarks:

16. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Member States in their closing remarks expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for excellent hosting of the Meeting and applauded H.E. Mr. Zhanibek Taizhanov, Vice Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan for excellent chairmanship of the Meeting. They also thanked the ECO Secretariat for the professional arrangements and conduct towards the success of this meeting.

17. In his closing remarks, Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General, thanked the host Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and remarked that the future of transport in the ECO region lies in a fully interconnected, sustainable, and digitalized network that transcends borders and unlocks the latent potential of our nations. The effective implementation of the Astana Declaration and the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035 will be pivotal in transforming our shared vision into tangible outcomes, ensuring that our corridors serve not only the region but also act as vital bridges connecting Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Beyond the ECO, these efforts will contribute to global trade and transit, reinforcing our role as a reliable and resilient hub in an increasingly interconnected world.

18. While thanking the Member States for their active participation, the Chairman announced the closing of the Meeting.

****

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1279

Priority: Normal
Date: 28/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Note verbal no. ECOE1/OG/26-10-26/01 dated 26th October 2026 received from ECO Educational Institute forwarding the Annual report of ECO Educational Institute.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of 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
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

No: ECOEI/OG/26-10-26/01 October 26, 2026

ECO Educational Institute presents its compliments to ECO Secretariat and has the honor to convey the requested report of ECO Educational Institute with reference to ECO Note Verbale No: IR/2026/1160 dated 13 October 2026 on the subject of 30th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers scheduled to be held on 15-16 November 2026 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

ECO Educational Institute avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed ECO Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ
President

Enclosed:
ECOEI Annual Report for the 30th Meeting of the ECO CoM

ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Address: Beştepe Mahallesi Yaşam Cad. Ak Plaza No.7/20 Yenimahalle/ANKARA-TÜRKİYE
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ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

30th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION COUNCIL of MINISTERS (CoM)

15-16 November 2026, Islamabad, I.R. Pakistan

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Latest Status of the Signing and Ratification of the ECOEI Charter

During the 8th Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Council of Ministers (CoM), held in Almaty on 9 May 1998, the decision to found and establish ECOEI in Ankara was made. This was in line with the paragraph on ‘‘Special Agencies and Regional Institutions” of Article 10 of the Treaty of Izmir. The Charter of the ECO Educational Institute was opened for signature by ECO Member Countries on 9 May 1998, and all Member States, except Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, signed the Charter. As of the reporting period, 8 Member States had signed the Charter, of which 7 had ratified it: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Türkiye. The Republic of Kazakhstan had signed the Charter but had not yet completed the ratification process, while Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had not yet signed.

As per Article VIII of the ECOEI Charter, the Charter entered into force after three Member States deposited their Instruments of Ratification with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on 29 November 2001.

	States	Signature	Ratification*
1	Afghanistan	8 May 1998	24 June 2014
2	Azerbaijan	8 May 1998	8 December 1998
3	Iran	8 May 1998	29 November 2001
4	Kazakhstan	8 May 1998	-
5	Kyrgyzstan	8 May 1998	31 January 2003
6	Pakistan	8 May 1998	22 June 2013
7	Tajikistan	8 May 1998	12 October 1998
8	Türkiye	8 May 1998	14 November 2007
9	Turkmenistan	-	-
10	Uzbekistan	-	-
TOTAL		8	7

* The depository of the ECOEI Charter based on information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye,

ECOEI continues to extend its invitation to the Government of Kazakhstan, encouraging the authorities to ratify the ECOEI Charter and join as a full member. Through formal meetings and written correspondence, the Institute maintained regular contact with representatives from Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, inviting them to sign the Charter, become full members, and benefit from the work of the Institute.

B. Institutional Structure

Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci has served as the President of ECOEI, overseeing its operations and initiatives throughout the reporting period. In December 2023, Prof. Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost, an Iranian national, resumed his duty as the Executive Director of the Institute, following the decision made during the 4th Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT) in August 2023.

The Institute is supported by a committed team consisting of an educational expert, an accountant, a secretary, and two auxiliary personnel. Furthermore, the Institute benefits from the part-time expertise of professionals and contributors, enhancing the efficient implementation of its programs and initiatives.

C. Host Country Agreement

The negotiations over the draft text of the Host Country Agreement were finalized on 18 July 2018, following extensive deliberations between ECOEI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as other governmental bodies of the Republic of Türkiye. On 23 July 2020, the agreement was signed between the President of ECOEI and the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. Ratification rules and procedures concerning the agreement were finalized on 6 July 2022, with a presidential decree promulgated the same day setting the agreement's entry into force as 6 May 2022 and thereby completing all internal ratification procedures.

D. Allocation of an Independent Premise to ECOEI

Since 2019, the Institute had been operating from a rented flat, financed entirely through its own resources. In May 2022, the ratification and entry into force of "The Host Country Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) Relating to the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of the ECOEI" established the legal basis for the Turkish Ministry of National Education to allocate ECOEI its official premises.

The allocation process, which required coordination with various governmental bodies including the Ministry of National Education, the Strategy and Budget Department of the Presidency, the General Directorate of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, Ankara Municipality, and district municipalities, was successfully concluded in April 2024, with the Government of Türkiye fulfilling its commitment by facilitating the rental of dedicated office space for the Institute.

Following a period of refurbishment and renovation to prepare the new premises for operation, the Institute relocated to Beştepe Mah. Yaşam Caddesi No. 7, Floor 6, Room 20, Yenimahalle, Ankara.

The Institute expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for its invaluable support in providing suitable premises, ensuring the Institute's operational needs are met in line with its diplomatic mission. Since relocating, the Institute has had the honour of hosting distinguished guests at its new premises, including the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Deputy Ministers of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Türkiye, and ambassadors of Member States.

E. Academic Council and Focal Points

The ECOEI Academic Council is a group of experts responsible for overseeing education and training projects at the Institute. Article 3, paragraph 3 of the Charter of ECOEI assigns the Academic Council responsibility for deciding, organizing, monitoring and evaluating the education and training projects and activities in accordance with the aims of the Institute. The Academic Council consists of one representative from each Member State, appointed by the Minister of Education (or the Minister responsible for educational affairs) for a term of three years, and meets at least once a year with the presence of not less than two-thirds of its members.

In accordance with Article IV of the ECOEI Charter, the Institute also maintains a Focal Point in each Member State, established in accordance with the prevailing regulations of each Member State. The Focal Points function in close cooperation with the Headquarters to facilitate the implementation of approved programmes. During the reporting period, in response to ECOEI's Note Verbale OG/24-08-06/01 dated 6 August 2024, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic updated the names of its Focal Point and Academic Council Member on 26 August 2024. The Government of Afghanistan appointed its Focal Point and Academic Council Member on 2 October 2024, while the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran appointed its Focal Point and Academic Council member on 4 November 2024. In July 2025, the Republic of Türkiye also updated the names of its Focal Point and Academic Council Member. In October 2026, the Islamic Republic of Iran updated the names of its Focal Point and Academic Council Member as well. Formal letters from the remaining ratifying Member States were awaited. The designated Academic Council Members and Focal Points, as of the reporting period, are set out below.

Member State	Role	Name	Office / Ministry
Republic of Türkiye	Focal Point	Dr. Nazife Selcen Pınar Akgül	Head of Department, General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations, Ministry of National Education
	Academic Council	Prof. Semih Aktekin	Rector, Nevşehir Hacıbektaş Veli University
Republic of Azerbaijan	Focal Point	Aysha Gurbanova	Advisor, International Cooperation

			Department, Ministry of Education
	Academic Council	Tural Ahmadov	Head of Department, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Focal Point	Muqeem Ul Islam	Director General, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC)
	Academic Council	Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training
Kyrgyz Republic	Focal Point	Husein Kasmambetov	Chief Specialist, Ministry of Education and Science
	Academic Council	Victoria Baltieva	Leading Specialist, Ministry of Education and Science
Islamic Republic of Iran	Focal Point	Dr. Mohammad Amjadian	Ministry of Education
	Academic Council	Mohammad Salimi	Iranian Member of the ECOEI Academic Council
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	Focal Point	Wahidullah Hashimi	Director, External Relations and Donor's Directorate, Ministry of Education
	Academic Council	Ainudden Ghiasy	Policy Deputy, Ministry of Education Developing Committee Member

The Institute emphasizes the importance of Member States designating their Focal Points, which are essential to facilitating effective communication and cooperation within the Institute and among its members. Member States that have not yet designated their Focal Points are encouraged to do so at their earliest convenience.

F. Financial Support

The support of Member States through financial and technical means is vital for the successful execution of all planned operations by ECOEI. However, the persistent budget shortfall, together with outstanding payments from several Member States, significantly impedes the Institute's ability to fulfill its responsibilities. ECOEI expresses its gratitude to the Governments of the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their continued financial support and calls upon the other Member States to fulfill their mandatory budgetary contributions, including outstanding arrears.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE 4th MEETING of THE ECOEI BOARD of TRUSTEES ON 5 AUGUST 2023

A. HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

1. Participation in the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (Online) – 28 November 2025

ECOEI participated virtually in the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers, hosted by Kazakhstan on 28 November 2025. The meeting brought together the Foreign Ministers of the ECO Member States, Heads of the Organization's Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies. In this framework, ECOEI presented an account of its activities and achievements over the reporting period and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the Organization's educational agenda.

2. Participation in the 5th Istanbul Education Summit - 5–6 December 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye

ECOEI attended 5th Istanbul Education Summit, organized by the Maarif Foundation of Türkiye under the theme "Healing the World through Education," held between 5 and 6 December 2025 at the Atatürk Cultural Centre in Istanbul. The Summit was inaugurated by the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Emine Erdoğan. In her opening remarks, she highlighted the transformative power of education in building a more just and compassionate world.

ECOEI was represented at this prestigious event by a delegation led by its President, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, and comprising Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost, Executive Director, and Dr. Gonca Biltekin, Educational Expert. The Institute's participation reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation in education and provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties with the Maarif Foundation and other partners.

3. Visit to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye – 12 December 2025, Ankara, Türkiye

On 12 December 2025, The President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, at the Ministry in Ankara. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to brief the Deputy Minister on the Institute's ongoing activities and strategic priorities, and to exchange views on the future course of educational cooperation within the ECO region.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed, inter alia, ways to strengthen ECOEI's institutional capacity and the broader role of education in supporting Türkiye's engagement with the Economic Cooperation Organization. President Kireçci expressed the Institute's appreciation for the continued support of the Republic of Türkiye, while the Deputy Minister reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to the Institute's mission and to promoting regional cooperation in education.

4. Participation in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum - 17–19 April 2026, Antalya, Türkiye

President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, participated in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, held from 17 to 19 April 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye. One of the world's foremost platforms for diplomatic dialogue, the Antalya Diplomacy Forum brings together heads of state and government, ministers, diplomats, academics, and opinion leaders from around the world to discuss the most pressing issues on the global and regional agenda. President Kireçci contributed to the Forum's dialogue on cooperation and development, while representing ECOEI and highlighting the vital role of education in advancing regional integration, mutual understanding, and shared prosperity across the ECO region.

5. Participation in the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting (Online) - 17–20 May 2026

ECOEI participated virtually in the meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), held from 17 to 20 May 2026. As one of the principal planning and coordination bodies of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Regional Planning Council brings together representatives of the Member States, the ECO Secretariat, the Organization's Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies to review the implementation of regional programmes and to coordinate future activities across the ECO's areas of cooperation. Through its participation, ECOEI coordinated its future activities within the broader framework of the Organization's planning and sought proposals from the Member States for inclusion in its upcoming work programme. This reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to the shared development objectives of the ECO region.

6. Visit by the Director General for Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran – 17 June 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 17 June 2026, H.E. Dr. Toutounchian, Director General for Multilateral Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the I.R. of Iran, paid a visit to the ECO Educational Institute to lead the Iranian delegation to the Annual Meeting of Commissioners of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. He was joined by H.E. Amb. Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzade, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The visit continued over a working lunch, hosted by the President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci. The two sides exchanged views on, inter alia, opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation and ECOEI's regional education activities.

7. Meeting with the Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran - 26 June 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

On 26 June 2026, President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci and Executive Director Dr. Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost met with H.E. Dr. Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of the I.R. of Iran, and his accompanying delegation in Istanbul. During the meeting, ECOEI presented its work in education, and the two sides exchanged views on ways to strengthen cooperation in science, research, and higher education across the ECO region. The Minister was in Istanbul to attend the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit and Fair (TETZ 2026), held from 26 to 28 June 2026 by Türkiye's Ministry of National Education.

8. Bilateral Meeting with the Minister of National Education of Türkiye - 26–27 June 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

On the margins of the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit and Fair, President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. The two sides exchanged views on ways to strengthen cooperation between ECOEI and the Ministry and on the Institute's ongoing initiatives supporting educational development and regional integration across the ECO region.

9. Participation in the 6th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation (Online) – 22 July 2026

An ECOEI delegation led by President Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci participated virtually in the 6th Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), held in hybrid format in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22 July 2026. Chaired by H.E. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan, the meeting brought together ministers, eminent scientists, and senior officials from the ECO Member States. Participants included H.E. Dr. Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of the I.R. of Iran; ECO Secretary-General H.E. Amb. Asad M. Khan; ECOSF President Prof. Dr. Syed Komail Tayebi; and representatives of the ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions.

The Board reviewed the implementation of previous decisions, evaluated the progress of the Foundation's ongoing programmes and projects, considered administrative and financial matters. It also approved the ECOSF Work Plan for the upcoming year, all in support of advancing science, technology, and innovation across the ECO region. In the course of the meeting, President Kireçci delivered a statement presenting the Institute's official views. He reaffirmed ECOEI's commitment to strengthening cooperation among the ECO's Specialized Institutions and promoting synergy between education, science, and innovation as complementary pillars of sustainable, knowledge-based regional development.

10. Working Lunch Visit to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran – 2 September 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 2 September 2026, the President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, Executive Director Dr. Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost, and Educational Expert Dr. Gonca Biltekin attended a working lunch at the Embassy of the I.R. of Iran in Ankara, hosted by H.E. Amb. Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh. The Iranian side was also represented at the meeting by Science Counsellor Mr. Mohammad-Reza Pour-Mohammadi. Discussions focused on opportunities for cooperation in science and education, and the Embassy was briefed on the Institute's forthcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

11. Visit by the Deputy Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran – 14 September 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 14 September 2026, H.E. Dr. Muhammad Salimi, Deputy Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited the Headquarters of the ECO Educational Institute in Ankara. Building on the introductory meeting held earlier, the visit provided an opportunity to further explore

concrete opportunities for cooperation in education between ECOEI and the Ministry of Education of the I.R. of Iran. Discussions also covered the Institute's forthcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

B. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1. Development of Audio-Visual Educational Material on Arg-e Bam – 5 December 2025

Within the framework of the joint R&D project between the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and the Ankara University Digital Education Centre, and drawing on source materials provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an audio-visual educational material on Arg-e Bam (the Bam Citadel) was developed. The material explores the world's largest adobe structure and its significance as a testament to the architectural and urban heritage of the region, illustrating its role as a flourishing crossroads along the ancient Silk Road and its enduring symbolism of resilience and cultural continuity.

2. Commissioned Research on the State of Higher Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran – December 2025

As part of its ongoing series of studies on the higher education systems of the ECO Member States, ECOEI signed a research agreement in December 2025 with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Hajimineh of Islamic Azad University for a study titled "State of Higher Education in Iran." The scope, objectives, and methodology of the study had been discussed at a prior online consultation meeting between the Institute and the researcher, ensuring alignment with ECOEI's broader research framework. The study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the structure, dynamics, and development of Iran's higher education system, offering evidence-based insights to inform regional cooperation and policy dialogue. This initiative reflects ECOEI's continued commitment to producing policy-relevant research on the educational systems of its Member States, complementing its earlier studies on higher education in Kazakhstan and other parts of the ECO region.

3. Development of Audio-Visual Educational Material on the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System – 18 December 2025

Within the framework of the joint R&D project between the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and the Ankara University Digital Education Centre, and drawing on source materials provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the script for an audio-visual educational material on the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System was developed. The material explores this masterpiece of ancient engineering, illustrating the ingenuity of its network of canals, bridges, and water mills, and the harmonious relationship between human innovation and the natural environment that has sustained the region for centuries.

4. Development of Audio-Visual Educational Material on Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Anatolia – 7 February 2026

Within the framework of the joint R&D project between the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and the Ankara University Digital Education Centre, the script for an audio-visual educational material on the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Anatolia was developed. The material explores the

architectural ingenuity and artistic richness of these UNESCO-listed structures, illustrating the sophisticated craftsmanship of medieval Anatolia and the enduring cultural and spiritual heritage embodied in their distinctive wooden construction.

The project aims to provide learners with a deeper understanding of the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques as symbols of cultural continuity and craftsmanship and exemplifies ECOEI's mission to integrate cultural heritage into contemporary education, promoting regional identity, historical literacy, and the appreciation of shared legacies among the Member States.

5. Education Diplomacy Seminar at the Ministry of National Education – 9 February 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

The President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci was invited as the guest speaker at the Education Diplomacy Seminar organized by the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, held on 9 February 2026 in Ankara. Addressing an audience of several hundred teachers and senior officials of the Ministry, President Kireçci delivered a talk titled ‘’A Strategic Instrument in Global Politics: Education Diplomacy and Türkiye’’.

In his address, President Kireçci examined the growing role of education as an instrument of diplomacy and soft power in an increasingly interconnected world, highlighting how education serves as a bridge between nations and a means of fostering mutual understanding, cultural dialogue, and long-term cooperation. Drawing on Türkiye's experience and the work of the ECO Educational Institute, he underscored the strategic value of education diplomacy in advancing regional integration and international engagement. The invitation to address such a distinguished gathering of educators and policymakers reflected the recognition of President Kireçci's expertise in the field and the standing of the ECO Educational Institute as a key factor in regional educational cooperation.

6. Launch of the “ECOEI Series on Common Cultural Heritage” Video Series – 2 March 2026

On 2 March 2026, ECOEI published on its website an educational video series titled the ‘’ECOEI Series on Common Cultural Heritage’’, bringing together the culmination of its joint audio-visual R&D project developed in cooperation with the Ankara University Digital Education Centre. The series examines significant historical and cultural sites across the ECO Member States, illustrating how interconnected societies shaped one another from the Neolithic era to the early modern empires.

Developed over the preceding months, the series features materials on a rich array of the region's cultural treasures such as the Selimiye Mosque, Göbeklitepe, Çatalhöyük, Troy, and the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Anatolia in Türkiye, and Meidan-i Imam (Naqsh-e Jahan) Square, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, and Arg-e Bam in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Through videos, narratives, and visual reconstructions, each material explores the historical, architectural, and civilizational significance of these sites, presenting them not as isolated monuments but as the expressions of a shared and interconnected regional heritage.

By making the series freely available, ECOEI aims to promote regional identity, historical literacy, and appreciation of the common cultural legacies uniting the peoples of the ECO region, while

exemplifying the Institute's mission to integrate cultural heritage into contemporary education and to foster mutual understanding among the Member States.

7. Participation in the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit and Fair (TETZ 2026) - 26–27 June 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

Held under the patronage of the Ministry of National Education on the theme ‘’Raising People in the Digital Age: Peace Culture, Values, Identity and the Future’’, the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit and Fair (TETZ 2026) brought together education ministers and representatives from more than twenty countries. ECOEI was represented by President Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, Executive Director Dr. Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost, and Education Expert Dr. Gonca Biltekin.

8. Moderation of the Ministers' Session at TETZ 2026 - 26–27 June 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

Within the framework of the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit and Fair, The President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci moderated the Summit's dedicated Ministers' Session. It was a high-level, exclusive gathering of ministers of education from participating countries. Chairing the session, President Kireçci guided the ministerial dialogue on shared challenges and opportunities in education, facilitating exchange on integrating educational technologies, cultivating values and identity, and promoting a culture of peace in the digital age. The session offered a rare opportunity for ministers and senior policymakers to engage directly on the pressing questions facing education systems in a rapidly changing technological landscape, from safeguarding human values amid digital transformation to preparing younger generations for the demands of the future. Under President Kireçci's moderation, the discussion drew out both the common concerns and the diverse national perspectives of participating countries, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding.

C. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION MEETINGS

1. Meeting with the Advisor at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul – 6 December 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye

On 6 December 2025, ECOEI held a consultation meeting with Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, Advisor at the Consulate General of the I.R. of Iran in Istanbul. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Institute's activities and ongoing initiatives, as well as opportunities for strengthening cooperation between ECOEI and the I.R. of Iran in the fields of education and cultural heritage.

2. Consultation Meeting with the Centre for Peace and Dialogue at the University of Religions and Denominations (Online) – 7 December 2025

On 7 December 2025, ECOEI held a virtual consultation meeting with Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari from the Centre for Peace and Dialogue at the University of Religions and Denominations. During the meeting, he proposed a research project examining how history is presented and framed in the textbooks of the ECO Member States and developing guidelines to promote mutual understanding through history education. During the meeting, the two sides

discussed the scope, objectives, and potential contribution of the proposed study to fostering a culture of peace and shared understanding across the ECO region.

3. Coordination Meeting with a Delegation from the Digital Education Centre of Ankara University – 11 December 2025, Ankara, Türkiye

On 11 December 2025, ECOEI held a coordination meeting with a delegation from the Digital Education Centre of Ankara University to review the concluding arrangements for the joint audio-visual educational project undertaken by the two institutions. The delegation comprised Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dilek Doğan Karaoğlu, Digital Education Coordinator; Dr. Funda Demirel, Coordinator; Ms. Habibe Arslan, Organization Officer; and Mr. Hakan Demiralp, Learning Engineer. Building on the close collaboration that had produced the ‘’ECOEI Series on Common Cultural Heritage’’, the meeting provided an opportunity to finalize the remaining stages of the project and to explore avenues for continued cooperation between ECOEI and Ankara University in the development of digital educational resources.

4. Visit by the Director General for EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education – 11 December 2025, Ankara, Türkiye

On 11 December 2025, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ünal Eryılmaz, Director General for EU and Foreign Relations at the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, visited the Headquarters of the ECO Educational Institute. During the meeting, President Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci and the Director General Eryılmaz held bilateral discussions on opportunities for cooperation in the field of education, exchanging views on ECOEI's ongoing activities and initiatives and on avenues for strengthening collaboration between the Institute and the Ministry in support of regional educational development.

5. Online Consultation Meeting with the Young Scholars Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Olympiad Diplomacy – 22 December 2025

On 22 December 2025, the President of ECOEI, Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireçci, and Executive Director Dr. Abdolkarim Sadeghdoost held a virtual consultation meeting with Dr. Seyyed Reza Hosseini, Head of the Young Scholars Club under the Ministry of Education of the I.R. Iran. The meeting focused on prospects for cooperation on ‘’Olympiad Diplomacy’’, an initiative that envisions academic competitions and scholarly olympiads as a platform for advancing educational cooperation and fostering connections among talented young people across the ECO region.

6. Coordination Meeting with a Delegation from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye – 14 January 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 14 January 2026, ECOEI held a coordination meeting with a delegation from the Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. The delegation comprised Mr. Fırat Güzeldağ, Head of the Department for International Organizations; Ms. Şeyma Nur Dündar, Head of the Department for Monitoring and Evaluation; Ms. Süheyla Demirel Yazıcı, Expert; and Ms. Seda Kuzgun, Expert. The meeting provided an opportunity to coordinate ongoing and prospective areas of cooperation between ECOEI and the

Ministry in support of the Institute's activities and its contribution to regional educational development.

7. Iftar Programme Hosted by ECOEI – 10 March 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 10 March 2026, ECOEI hosted an iftar programme that brought together a distinguished group of guests, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ünal Eryılmaz, Director General for EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education; İsmet Korukoğlu, the Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to Türkiye; and Education Attachés of the ECO Member States. In a convivial atmosphere, the gathering offered an occasion to strengthen ties among partners and to exchange views on the Institute's activities and the forthcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

8. Consultation Meeting on the Digital History School Project – 9 April 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 9 April 2026, Dr. Seval Hallaç of Gazi University, lead coordinator of the Digital History School Project, met with ECOEI Education Expert Dr. Gonca Biltekin to review the progress and next steps of the project. Following their discussion, the two visited Mr. Birtan Yıldız, Head of Department at the Directorate General of Innovation and Educational Technologies (YEĞİTEK) of the Ministry of National Education, to consult on the design of the digital platform to be developed by YEĞİTEK. The meeting addressed the technical and pedagogical requirements of the platform, ensuring alignment between the project's educational objectives and its digital implementation. It also reaffirmed the close collaboration between ECOEI, Gazi University, and YEĞİTEK in advancing the Digital History School Project.

9. Visit by a Delegation from the 22 Bahman Educational Complex – 24 April 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 24 April 2026, a delegation from the 22 Bahman Educational Complex, the official school of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara, paid a visit to the Headquarters of the ECO Educational Institute. The delegation, composed of students, teachers, and school administrators, was accompanied by the Education Attaché of the Embassy of the I.R. of Iran.

During the visit, the delegation was welcomed by the Institute's leadership and briefed on ECOEI's mission, structure, and ongoing activities in the field of educational cooperation across the ECO region. The students were given the opportunity to learn about the Institute's work in advancing shared educational and cultural initiatives among the Member States. The visit stood as a meaningful expression of ECOEI's commitment to engaging with the younger generation, nurturing an appreciation of the region's common heritage, and fostering awareness of regional educational cooperation among the schools of the Member States.

10. Consultation Meeting with a Delegation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye – 30 April 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 30 April 2026, ECOEI held a coordination meeting with a delegation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, led by Mr. Ersoy Günay, Deputy Director General for Foreign Relations and the EU. The discussions explored possible areas of cooperation

between the two institutions, with a view to identifying opportunities for collaboration in the fields of shared interest, including education, workforce development, and human capital.

11. Dinner Hosted for Former and Current ECO Officials – 14 May 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

On 14 May 2026, ECOEI hosted a dinner for the. former and current officials of the Economic Cooperation Organization present in Ankara. The gathering held particular significance, as it welcomed several Turkish officials who had been serving at the ECO headquarters in Tehran and had recently returned to Ankara due to the security concerns there. In receiving them, the Institute wished to extend its warm regards, to inquire after their well-being and that of their families, and to express its solidarity and support during a challenging period.

Convened ahead of the forthcoming virtual meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council, the dinner also offered an informal occasion to reconnect, exchange perspectives, and reflect together on the shared work of the ECO family. In a cordial and collegial atmosphere, the evening reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and mutual support that unite those who serve the Organization and underscored the Institute's conviction that such human ties lie at the heart of meaningful regional cooperation.

12. Participation in the TASOP International Workshop and Thematic Research Results Conference - 13–14 May 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

President Kireçci participated in the International Workshop and Thematic Research Results Conference held at the JW Marriott Hotel, in Ankara. The event was organised under the project ‘’Technical Assistance for Institutional Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Employment, Education and Social Policies Sectoral Operational Programme (TASOP) – Phase III’’, financed under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the benefit of the General Directorate for Foreign Relations and the EU of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye.

The event brought together policymakers, experts and researchers to share findings on the links between education, employment and social inclusion, offering valuable insights into evidence-based policy design. Participation in such platforms allows ECOEI to draw on international good practices and explore how lessons from Türkiye's experience could inform cooperation in education and skills development across the ECO Member States.

D. PUBLICATIONS

1. Publication of the Book *Teacher Training in Türkiye* – October 2026

The ECO Educational Institute published the English-language book *Teacher Training in Türkiye* in October 2026, authored by Prof. Dr. Semih Aktekin, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Öztürk and Dr. Mehmet Arslan. The publication provides a comprehensive overview of teacher education in Türkiye, covering its historical development, pre-service and in-service teacher education systems, current challenges, and future directions. It also examines recent developments in teacher education, including digital learning, artificial intelligence literacy, inclusive education, continuous professional development, and the establishment of the National Education Academy.

The publication aims to contribute to knowledge-sharing and professional dialogue on teacher education within the ECO region. By presenting Türkiye's experience in a systematic and accessible English-language reference, the book provides a useful resource for education policymakers, researchers, teacher educators, and practitioners across the ECO Member States.

III. STATUS of IMPLEMENTATION of DECISIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The table covers ECOEI's work from November 2025 to October 2026 and links each activity to the decision it implements: RPC Work Programmes and Calendars of Events, or the ECOEI Work Programme 2023–2026 (WP).

No.	Decision	Activity	Progress
1	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 300; IR, Para 349. ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme II, No. 23	Production of audio-visual materials on common heritage: the "ECOEI Series on Common Cultural Heritage"	**Status of Implementation:** Implemented. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** Materials were developed on Arg-e Bam (5 December 2025), the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System (18 December 2025) and the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Anatolia (7 February 2026). The final arrangements were agreed with Ankara University on 11 December 2025. On 2 March 2026 the series was published free of charge on the ECOEI website, covering Selimiye Mosque, Göbeklitepe, Çatalhöyük, Troy, the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Shushtar and Arg-e Bam.
2	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 302; IR, Para 353. ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme I, No. 7	Publication of the book *Teacher Training in Türkiye*	**Status of Implementation:** Implemented. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** Published in English in October 2026, authored by Prof. Dr. Semih Aktekin, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Öztürk and Dr. Mehmet Arslan. It covers pre-service and in-service teacher education, AI literacy, inclusive education and the National Education Academy.
3	ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme I: Internationalization of Higher Education	Commissioned research on the State of Higher Education in Iran	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** After an online consultation on scope and methodology, ECOEI signed a research agreement in December 2025 with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Hajimineh of Islamic Azad University.

No.	Decision	Activity	Progress
4	ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme VI, No. 59	Olympiad Diplomacy	**Status of Implementation:** Under consultation. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** On 22 December 2025 ECOEI held an online consultation with Dr. Seyyed Reza Hosseini, Head of the Young Scholars Club, Ministry of Education of Iran, on using academic olympiads to connect talented young people across the ECO region.
5	ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme II, Item No.63 Evidence Based Social Science Teaching Project	Digital History School Project, with Gazi University and the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye (YEĞİTEK)	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** On 9 April 2026 the project coordinator, Dr. Seval Hallaç (Gazi University), and ECOEI reviewed progress and next steps. They then consulted YEĞİTEK on the technical and pedagogical design of the digital platform. The platform is currently under construction.
6	ECO Calendar of Events 2025, HRSD, No. 8. ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 295; ECOEI section, Para 352	5th Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees, to be convened with the 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Education	**Status of Implementation:** Preparatory stage. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** The 5th BoT Meeting, is scheduled for 6 November 2026 to be hosted by Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. The invitation letters and agendas of the meetings were sent to all invitees in October 2026.
7	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 297; ECOEI section, Para 352	Collection of Member States' project proposals for the next ECOEI Work Programme	**Status of Implementation:** Implemented (draft Work Programme to be adopted at the 5th BoT). **Remarks / Actions Taken:** At the 36th RPC (17–20 May 2026, online) ECOEI requested proposals from the Member States. During the period, Türkiye submitted 8 new proposals, Iran 6 and Tajikistan 1; all were included. The draft Work Programme contains 95 activities under the same six themes as the previous programme, combining ongoing projects, the Action Plan on Internationalization of Higher Education

No.	Decision	Activity	Progress
			(18 actions) and the new proposals. It will be submitted for adoption at the 5th BoT Meeting on 6 November 2026.
8	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 298. ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme I, No. 4	Developing partnerships with regional and international institutions	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** ECOEI attended the 5th Istanbul Education Summit of the Maarif Foundation (5–6 December 2025). It delivered a statement on cooperation among ECO specialized institutions at the 6th BoT Meeting of the ECO Science Foundation (22 July 2026).
9	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), HRSD, Para 301; IR section, Para 354	Initiatives on artificial intelligence, digital learning and innovation in education	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** The ECOEI President moderated the Ministers' Session of the 7th Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit (TETZ 2026, Istanbul, 26–27 June 2026), on educational technologies and values in the digital age, with ministers from over twenty countries.
10	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), IR, Para 348	Nomination of Academic Council Members and Focal Points	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** Iran updated its Focal Point and Academic Council Member in October 2026. Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Türkiye have designated theirs; Tajikistan's nomination is awaited.
11	ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), ECOEI section, Para 351	Signature and ratification of the ECOEI Charter; payment of annual contributions	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** 8 Member States have signed the Charter and 7 have ratified it. ECOEI kept in contact with Kazakhstan (signed, not ratified), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (not signed). Türkiye and Iran continued their financial support; other Member States are called on to pay contributions and arrears.

No.	Decision	Activity	Progress
12	ECO Work Programme 2025 (35th RPC), EME, Minerals Section, Para 190. ECO Work Programme 2026 (36th RPC), EME, Para 164. ECOEI WP 2023–2026, Theme IV, No. 33	Project "World Is Our Home: Production of Audio-Visual Educational Materials on Geological Heritage"	**Status of Implementation:** Ongoing. **Remarks / Actions Taken:** ECOEI launched the project in September 2025 and initiated a Task Force on Geological Heritage Awareness and Education, inviting each Member State to nominate two experts. Türkiye nominated two experts, Iran two and Uzbekistan one. The Task Force will compile a joint inventory of geological heritage sites and guide the production of materials for young people, to be translated into several languages and distributed through schools, universities and online platforms.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1264

Priority: Normal
Date: 27/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Note Verbal No. ECl/522/1581 dated 25th October 2026, along with enclosure, received from the ECO Cultural Institute, Tehran, sharing its Annual Report for the period 28 November 2025 to 17 October 2026 (the period since the 29th Council Of Ministers).

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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Be green. Print wisely.

ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE
Headquarters - Tehran

No. ECI/522/1581

25 October 2026

NOTE

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), Tehran, presents its compliments to the Secretariate of the ECO Secretariate in Tehran and has the honour to its Annual Report of Activities to the 30th Meeting of Council of Minister. The report covers the period 28 November 2025 to 17 October 2026 (the period since the 29th Council of Ministers) .

The ECO Cultural Institute avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

ECO Secretariate, Tehran

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ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Submitted to the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers

(Reporting period: 28 November 2025–17 October 2026)

Executive Summary

During the reporting period from 28 November 2025 to 17 October 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) pursued its mandate to strengthen cultural cooperation among the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization, promote their shared cultural heritage, and encourage greater interaction among artists, writers, researchers, cultural institutions and young people across the ECO region.

ECI's activities during the period covered a broad range of cultural fields, including visual arts, cinema, literature, translation, cultural heritage, media and information literacy, cultural policy research and academic cooperation. Through exhibitions, film programmes, literary events, conferences, publications and institutional partnerships, the Institute sought to give practical expression to the cultural ties connecting the ECO Member States and to create opportunities for sustained regional engagement.

Particular attention was given to cultural dialogue and the presentation of the region's diverse artistic and literary traditions. Initiatives included the Sadequain exhibition in Tehran, the ECO Film Week, the programme Shared Horizons: Cinema Across the ECO Countries, literary and translation projects, and conferences devoted to media literacy and the intellectual heritage of the region. The Institute also advanced cooperation in cultural research through the commissioning of a study on the cultural policies of ECO Member States and the development of related publication initiatives.

Institutional cooperation remained an important part of ECI's work. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Uzbekistan State University of World Languages on 17 September 2026 provided a further basis for academic and cultural exchange. Cooperation with cultural organisations, universities and public institutions in Member States and in the host country helped broaden the Institute's network of partners and strengthen the regional dimension of its programmes.

Alongside its cultural activities, ECI undertook measures to improve programme planning, administrative coordination, financial documentation and internal accountability. Proposals concerning the Institute's Staff Regulations were advanced through the relevant ECO institutional mechanisms, while work continued on the draft Host Country Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. These matters remain subject to the applicable processes of consideration, agreement and approval.

The period was therefore marked by two complementary priorities: delivering cultural programmes with regional relevance and strengthening the institutional arrangements needed to sustain them. In the remaining months of 2026, ECI intends to build on this work, with particular emphasis on regional film cooperation, media literacy, translation and research, youth engagement, academic networks and the further development of its administrative and financial systems.

Key Achievements

The principal results and areas of progress during the reporting period are summarised below:

1. Greater visibility for the cultural heritage of ECO Member States.

Exhibitions, literary programmes, commemorative events and cultural presentations provided opportunities to introduce the region's artistic and intellectual traditions to wider audiences and to highlight the historical connections among its peoples.

2. Expanded opportunities for regional cinema cooperation.

ECO Film Week in Tehran and the programme Shared Horizons: Cinema Across the ECO Countries brought cinema from the region into a shared cultural setting and drew attention to the potential for collaboration in filmmaking, exchange of creative talent and future co-production.

3. Continued support for literature and translation.

ECI advanced literary programmes and translation initiatives connecting Persian, Urdu and other literary traditions of the ECO region. Activities included the presentation of Kamand-e Zolf, engagement with the literary legacy of Mustansar Hussain Tarar, and work on other publication and translation projects.

4. A stronger focus on media and information literacy.

The first ECO Media Literacy Conference, held in Tehran on 18 August 2026, established a platform for regional discussion of media literacy in the Media 5.0 era. Preparations for a second conference in Islamabad in November 2026 were intended to extend this dialogue and encourage a more sustained regional approach.

5. Progress in cultural policy research.

The commissioning of a study on the cultural policies of ECO Member States represented a step towards developing a stronger research basis for regional cultural cooperation. Related work on ECO Heritage and the Institute's newsletter also supported the dissemination of information on cultural developments across the region.

6. Strengthened academic and institutional partnerships.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed with Uzbekistan State University of World Languages on 17 September 2026, together with cooperation with cultural bodies, universities and partner institutions, helped establish further avenues for exchange and joint activity.

7. Continued development of cultural networks and youth engagement.

ECI advanced initiatives intended to connect art universities, encourage the participation of young people and create opportunities for cultural learning. Further activities in these areas, including planned network meetings and youth-oriented programmes, remain part of the Institute's forward work programme.

8. Improved programme planning and internal coordination.

The Institute worked to organise its activities into clearer programme clusters, strengthen monthly planning and clarify responsibilities across its organisational units. These measures were intended to improve coordination, make more effective use of available resources and provide a more coherent basis for programme delivery.

9. Progress on institutional and regulatory matters.

Proposals to amend the Staff Regulations were submitted for consideration through the relevant ECO mechanisms. Work also continued on the draft Host Country Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Neither process should be understood as completed pending the required consideration and approval.

1. Introduction

Culture has long served as a bridge among the peoples of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Across the region, languages, literature, artistic traditions, historical sites and shared forms of cultural expression bear witness to centuries of interaction and mutual influence. The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) seeks to build on this common heritage by fostering cultural exchange, encouraging cooperation among Member States and strengthening mutual understanding among their peoples.

Since the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers, at which the Institute presented its previous report, ECI has pursued a programme of cultural, literary and academic activities, working with Member States, diplomatic missions, universities, cultural institutions, artists and scholars. Its work during the reporting period covered visual and performing arts, cinema, literature, translation, media literacy, cultural heritage, research and regional publications.

Particular attention was given to bringing the cultural traditions of Member States to wider audiences, creating opportunities for artists and scholars to meet, and encouraging the circulation of literary and artistic works across linguistic boundaries. The Institute also sought to extend cultural cooperation to younger generations and to develop partnerships capable of sustaining activities beyond individual events.

Alongside this programme, ECI undertook a review of its internal arrangements. Measures were initiated to bring related activities under a more coherent planning framework, clarify organisational responsibilities, review the Staff Regulations, strengthen financial administration, advance the draft Host Country Agreement and improve the Institute's conference facilities.

The following report outlines the principal activities undertaken during the reporting period, the institutional measures pursued and the priorities envisaged for the remainder of 2026.

2. Cultural Activities and Regional Cooperation

During the period under review, ECI carried out a wide programme of cultural, literary and academic activities. In March and April 2026, owing to the security situation, the Institute worked remotely. The activities are presented below by theme, beginning with arts, exhibitions and performances.

2.1. Arts, Exhibitions and Performances

Hayriye" Concert Held in ECI: A Vivid Display of Cultural Shared Heritage through Music

The Yunus Emre Children's Choir performed the "Hayriye" concert at the ECO Cultural Institute, signifying a key moment in cultural collaboration between the Yunus Emre Institute in Tehran and the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI). Led by conductor Ms. Zohreh Abdoli, the concert featured a diverse musical repertoire by young artists, conveying messages of peace, friendship, and international solidarity. The event, which included speeches from Mr. Muhammad Hasan and Mr. Akif Şahin, highlighted cultural synergy and diplomacy, connecting heritage with the new generation through precise musical execution. Held on December 31, 2025, the concert fostered empathy and cultural kinship, demonstrating art's power in forging bonds and promoting regional identity, thus setting a precedent for future artistic collaborations.

Photo exhibition: Tajikistan on the Path of Growth and Prosperity

On September 7, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute launched the photo exhibition "Tajikistan on the Path of Growth and Prosperity." The exhibition, attended by diplomatic and cultural figures, aims to showcase contemporary

Tajikistan, its cultural heritage, and its journey of development. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, emphasized the exhibition's role in strengthening regional cultural ties and presenting Tajikistan's commitment to progress while preserving its identity. Dr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran, highlighted the exhibition as an opportunity to display the country's cultural, historical, and natural attributes, coinciding with the 35th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence. The exhibition, featuring various aspects of Tajik life, will be open until September 9, 2026, and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cultural exchange within the ECO region.

ECI Hosts Tribute and Exhibition Honouring Pakistani Artist Sadequain

ECI hosted a tribute ceremony and exhibition honouring Sadequain, one of Pakistan's most influential contemporary artists, in Tehran on 28 September 2026. Organised in collaboration with the Sadequain Foundation and the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), the event brought together diplomats, academics and art specialists to explore the artist's contributions to painting, calligraphy and poetry, as well as his place in the region's wider artistic heritage. Speakers highlighted the connections between modern Iranian and Pakistani art, while the exhibition introduced Iranian audiences to selected works by Sadequain. The programme underscored ECI's role in promoting cultural dialogue and artistic cooperation across the ECO region.

ECI Opens From the Far Horizons, an Exhibition of Amir Jalilvand's Calligraphy

ECI inaugurated From the Far Horizons, an exhibition of calligraphy by Iranian artist Amir Jalilvand, on 8 October 2026. Bringing calligraphy into dialogue with photography, poetry, music and elements of artistic practice, the exhibition presents a distinctive interpretation of the art form, including works previously created for Tehran Metro stations. Jalilvand also highlighted calligraphy, particularly Persian Nastaliq, as a shared cultural tradition connecting countries across the ECO region, while reflecting the distinctive artistic expressions developed in each.

"Voices in Colour" Group Exhibition and Poetry Recital Held at ECO Cultural Institute

For background (preceding the reporting period): The Voices in Colour exhibition and poetry recital, held from July 24 to 30, 2025 at the ECI, brought together 24 women artists from Afghanistan and Iran to present their paintings and calligraphy alongside live readings by Afghan poet Sayed Zia Qasemi and Iranian poet Fahimeh Dehghan.

2.2. Academic and Intellectual Events

Honouring the Academic and Cultural Contributions of Dr. Arif Naushahi, Prominent ECO Researcher

The ECO Cultural Institute hosted a scientific session on January 14, 2026, to honour Dr. Arif Naushahi, an Iranologist, and his contributions to the study of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, a significant Sufi figure. The event, attended by ambassadors and scholars from ECO member states, aimed to foster scientific dialogue and cultural understanding. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, opened the session by highlighting Dr. Naushahi 's scholarly impact and Hamadani's role in promoting Islamic knowledge in regions like Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. Tajikistan's Ambassador, Dr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, emphasized Hamadani's revered status and ongoing research in Tajikistan. Various scholars presented on Hamadani's works and Dr. Naushahi 's research, with Dr. Muhammad Hassan Hasrat specifically discussing Hamadani's influence in Baltistan, Pakistan. Dr. Naushahi concluded by presenting his research on manuscripts and collaborative experiences. The session ended with commemorative gifts for Dr. Naushahi and a library visit.

Seminar: Regional Cooperation for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in ECO Member States

On June 30, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute launched its "Silk Road Intangible Heritage Series" with a session on "Regional Cooperation for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in ECO Member States." Cultural experts discussed strategies to strengthen cross-border cooperation and protect the region's living heritage. Speakers highlighted intangible cultural heritage as crucial for sustainable development, social cohesion, community empowerment, and cultural diplomacy, emphasizing it as an investment in the future. They also stressed its unique role in strengthening regional cultural identity and promoting dialogue. The need to revise safeguarding approaches was discussed, advocating for community-led, internal processes rather than external impositions, with a focus on direct communication networks between local communities. The Silk Road was described not just as a trade route but as a platform for cultural exchange that significantly shaped civilizations and contributed to the modern era. The event concluded by emphasizing the importance of experience exchange among ECO member states to preserve and promote their shared civilizational heritage.

First International Media Literacy Conference

The First "International Media Literacy Conference" was held on August 18, 2026, at the ECO Cultural Institute, with experts and the delegation from the Radio and Television Supreme Council of Türkiye (RTÜK) in attendance. The conference focused on regional capacities to address information age challenges, with speakers emphasizing media literacy as a critical skill for questioning and verifying information, especially in the era of AI and fake news. They highlighted the need to equip younger generations with intellectual tools to become independent thinkers rather than passive consumers. The complex modern media environment, distinguishing truth from falsehood, and the necessity of regional cooperation were also discussed. Media literacy was identified as a key tool for societal resilience, and the supervisory structure of RTÜK was explained. The psychological techniques used by media to influence audiences were analysed, stressing the importance of teaching analytical skills. The conference aimed to foster the exchange of scientific views to develop a local media literacy model for ECO member countries.

Second ECO Media Literacy Conference — Islamabad, Pakistan

Building on the Tehran conference, ECI advanced preparations for the second ECO Media Literacy Conference, planned for 17–18 November 2026 in Islamabad, in cooperation with Riphah International University.

Under the theme “Media Literacy, Culture and Digital Citizenship: A Regional Dialogue,” the conference is intended to bring together media experts, researchers, academics and practitioners from Member States. It will provide a forum for exchanging experience and examining regional approaches to misinformation, digital citizenship, media responsibility and the cultural implications of emerging technologies.

The proposed conference reflects the importance of sustained regional dialogue on challenges that cross national and linguistic boundaries. Its emphasis on media professionals and researchers is intended to encourage discussion grounded in practical experience and specialist knowledge.

ECI Conference Promotes Türkiye–Iran Dialogue on Media Literacy and Regulation

ECI’s International Media Literacy Conference provided a platform for dialogue between Turkish and Iranian media authorities, with a meeting between Türkiye’s Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) delegation, led by Ms Feyza Gizligider, Head of its Strategy Development Department, and officials of Iran’s Sound and Vision Regulatory Authority (SATRA) in Tehran on 19 August 2026. Dr Ahmet Akalın, ECI’s Assistant Director, also attended the meeting. Discussions focused on media literacy, combating fake news and disinformation, and promoting responsible media consumption, while exploring opportunities for cooperation in these fields across ECO member states.

ECI Facilitates RTÜK Delegation's Visit to Iran's Children and Youth Broadcasting Centre

As part of its International Media Literacy Conference, ECI facilitated a visit by a delegation from Türkiye's Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), led by Ms Feyza Gizligider, Head of its Strategy Development Department, to Iran's Children and Youth Broadcasting Centre on 20 August 2026. The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to learn about Iran's experience in children's television, animation production and digital content. Discussions also explored approaches to children's media literacy and educational content for younger audiences, fostering an exchange of experience between Türkiye and Iran in these fields.

ECI President Highlights Shared Cultural Heritage at KAYFOR Forum in Uzbekistan

ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan represented ECI at the 29th International Public Administration Forum (KAYFOR) at Kokand University's Andijan campus in Uzbekistan on 15 September 2026. Addressing the theme "Public Administration in the Turkic World: City, Culture and Identity," he discussed the relationship between cultural and public diplomacy, emphasising the role of governments in translating cultural perspectives into practical policies and initiatives. He also highlighted the ECO region's rich cultural diversity and shared historical connections, noting that regional cooperation can strengthen these bonds while respecting the distinct identities of member states. The forum also provided an opportunity to exchange views with regional academics on academic and cultural cooperation.

ECI President Addresses Cultural Diplomacy Seminar in Uzbekistan

Building on the cooperation established through an MoU between ECI and the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages (UzSWLU), ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan addressed a cultural diplomacy seminar for International Relations students at the university in Tashkent on 17 September 2026. Hosted by Faculty Dean Prof. Dr Alisher Matyakubov, the seminar explored the role of cultural diplomacy in international relations and the promotion of national heritage abroad. Ambassador Hassan introduced ECI's cultural cooperation initiatives among ECO member states, particularly in language, literature and the arts, while ECI Assistant Director Dr Ahmet Akalın briefed students on the Institute's media literacy conferences. The session concluded with questions and discussion on international diplomacy and intercultural communication.

2.3. Cultural Diplomacy and Institutional Cooperation

ECO and ECI Reaffirm Commitment to Regional Cultural Cooperation

On 7 December 2025, H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President ECI, received a courtesy call from Mr Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), accompanied by Mr Alim Ullah, Head of the International Relations Section at ECI. During the meeting, the ECO delegation reaffirmed the Organization's full support for the Institute's ongoing and future cultural programmes and emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation to promote cultural unity, preserve shared heritage and foster dialogue among ECO member states.

Ambassador of Pakistan Reaffirms Support for ECI

H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President ECI, met with H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, Ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran and a member of the ECI Council of Permanent Representatives, at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran. The meeting addressed matters concerning the Institute, during which Ambassador Tipu reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for ECI and the leadership of its President.

ECI and Miras-e Maktoob Agree to Strengthen Literary Cooperation

The President of ECI met with Dr Akbar Irani, author, researcher and Director General of the Written Heritage Research Centre (Miras-e Maktoob), on 8 December 2025 to discuss opportunities for literary and cultural cooperation. Dr Irani outlined the Centre's activities and its connections with scholars and literary figures across the region, as well as its previous cooperation with ECI. Both sides expressed their readiness to expand their collaboration and agreed to establish a joint committee to follow up on proposed initiatives and coordinate future activities.

ECI and Yunus Emre Institute Agree to Organise Joint Cultural Events

The ECI President, H.E. Dr Muhammad Hassan, met with Mr Akif Shahin, Acting Head of the Yunus Emre Institute (YEE), at ECI headquarters on 9 December 2025 to discuss cooperation between the two institutions. Both sides agreed to organise joint cultural activities, including seminars, performances and celebrations, with a view to strengthening cultural exchange and institutional cooperation.

Türkiye Reaffirms Support for ECI and Institutional Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, visited the Embassy of Türkiye in Tehran on 11 December 2025 and met with Türkiye's Ambassador, H.E. Prof. Dr Hicabi Kırlangıç, and Counsellor Ece Topaloğlu Soğangöz. Ambassador Hassan briefed the Turkish side on ECI's forthcoming institutional regulations and expressed his interest in strengthening cooperation, inviting Ambassador Kırlangıç to visit the Institute. The Turkish Ambassador congratulated Ambassador Hassan on his appointment and reaffirmed Türkiye's continued support for institutional cooperation. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on ECI's planned activities for the coming period.

ECI and Kyrgyzstan Discuss Prospects for Strengthening Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Dr Aqelbek Kylychoff, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Iran, on 15 December 2025 to discuss prospects for strengthening cultural cooperation. Ambassador Hassan outlined ECI's objectives and programmes, expressed his interest in deepening cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, and invited the Ambassador to visit the Institute. Ambassador Kylychoff congratulated Ambassador Hassan on his appointment, highlighted ECI's importance to ECO member countries, and expressed his readiness to pursue constructive cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and exchanging views on ECI's future plans.

ECI President Discusses Future Cooperation with Azerbaijan's Ambassador

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr Ali Alizadeh, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Iran, on 15 December 2025. Ambassador Hassan briefed his counterpart on ECI's ongoing and forthcoming activities and highlighted opportunities to strengthen cooperation with the Embassy and other Azerbaijani cultural institutions. He reaffirmed ECI's readiness to expand collaboration with Azerbaijan as an ECO member state. Ambassador Alizadeh congratulated Ambassador Hassan on his appointment and expressed his commitment to continuing the longstanding cooperation between the Embassy and ECI.

ECI and Tajikistan Reaffirm Commitment to Cultural Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with H.E. Dr Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Iran, at the Tajik Embassy in Tehran on 16 December 2025 to discuss strengthening cultural cooperation. Dr Zohidi congratulated Ambassador Hassan on his appointment and highlighted ECI's international standing and importance as a regional cultural institution. Ambassador Hassan outlined ECI's

forthcoming programmes and emphasised the importance of continued cooperation with the Embassy in implementing them. Both sides expressed their readiness to expand cultural and artistic cooperation.

ECI President Meets Scholars and Cultural Figures at Written Heritage Research Institute

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, visited the Written Heritage Research Institute at the invitation of its Director, Dr Akbar Irani, on 17 December 2025. During the visit, he met with prominent scholars and cultural figures to exchange views on potential areas of cooperation with ECI. Ambassador Hassan also recorded a message in the Institute's memorial book, acknowledging its distinguished standing among cultural institutions. The visit concluded with scholars sharing recollections of the late Professor Kamran Fani and reflecting on his scholarly contributions.

ECI and Iran–Pakistan Friendship Association Discuss Cultural Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Mr Honardost, Chairman of the Iran–Pakistan Friendship Association, at ECI headquarters on 22 December 2025. The meeting focused on strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties between Iran and Pakistan, with both sides exchanging views on expanding cooperation in cultural, artistic and academic fields. The meeting formed part of ECI's efforts to promote cultural diplomacy and enhance bilateral and regional cooperation.

ECI and Abbasabad Plan Joint Initiative to Promote Shared Regional Heritage

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Seyed Mohammad Hossein Hejazi, CEO of Abbasabad Rehabilitation Company, and his delegation on 31 December 2025 to discuss opportunities for cultural cooperation and the development of ECO Park in Tehran. The discussions focused on the park's potential to showcase the shared heritage, traditions and arts of ECO member states and strengthen regional cultural ties. The two sides agreed to organise a joint international event celebrating Nowruz at ECO Park, while Abbasabad Renovation Company expressed its readiness to host major cultural events involving ECO member states.

Promoting Shared Cultural Heritage through ECI–Saadi Foundation Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Dr Gholamali Haddad-Adel, President of the Saadi Foundation, to discuss expanding cultural cooperation between the two institutions. Dr Haddad-Adel highlighted the role of shared cultural heritage in fostering unity among ECO member states and emphasised the importance of promoting Persian-language education across the region. Ambassador Hassan noted the popularity of Saadi's poetry in Pakistan and underscored ECI's commitment to using shared literary and cultural heritage to strengthen regional ties. The meeting concluded with ECI welcoming the Saadi Foundation's proposal to provide Persian-language training for diplomats and their families.

ECI President Joins Diplomatic Visit to Iran's Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organisation

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, joined heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organisations in Tehran on 18 May 2026 for a visit to Iran's Organization of Natural Resources and Watershed Management, following an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visit provided an opportunity to observe damage to the organisation's headquarters resulting from the attacks by the US and Israeli regimes.

ECI and ICRO Seek to Enhance Cultural Dialogue and Regional Ties

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Dr Mohammad Mehdi Imani-Pour, Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), on 13 January 2026 to discuss ways to expand cultural, academic and international cooperation. The discussions focused on shared civilizational heritage, the

development of joint cultural programmes and stronger coordination between the two institutions to promote cultural dialogue and regional convergence.

ECI President Pays Courtesy Call on Iran's Minister of Culture

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, accompanied by Executive Director Dr Rakhshandeh Yazdi, met with Mr Seyed Abbas Salehi, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran and a member of ECI's Permanent Council of Representatives, on 26 January 2026. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing projects and exploring opportunities for joint cultural, educational and artistic initiatives in 2026, with an emphasis on strengthening cultural exchange among ECO member states and promoting the region's shared heritage and creative potential.

ECI and Turkmenistan Explore Opportunities for Cultural and Artistic Exchange

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, received H.E. Ambassador Elyas Gayypov of Turkmenistan, who met him on 29 January 2026. Ambassador Gayypov congratulated the ECI President on the commencement of his mandate and emphasised the importance of strengthening cultural cooperation among ECO member states. The two sides exchanged views on potential collaboration, particularly in cultural and artistic exchange, reaffirming the importance of constructive engagement in line with ECI's mandate.

Advancing Shared Written Heritage through ECI–National Library Cooperation

The President of ECI, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, held talks with Mr Gholamreza Amirkhani, President of the National Library and Archives of Iran, on 2 February 2026 to explore ways of strengthening cultural and scholarly cooperation. Discussions focused on joint research projects drawing on manuscript collections across ECO member states, the revitalisation of written heritage, and the organisation of cultural events and academic forums. Both sides also supported initiatives to establish a conference of national archives and continue meetings of the heads of national libraries of ECO member states. During the visit, Ambassador Hassan toured the specialised departments and collections of the National Library.

ECI and Tehran University of Art Agree to Formalise Cultural and Academic Cooperation

The ECI President, accompanied by the Institute's Executive Director, met with Dr Seyed Behshid Hosseini, President of the University of Art in Tehran, on 8 February 2026 to discuss cooperation in academic, artistic and research fields. The discussions focused on performing arts, music, joint international art festivals and the preservation of the ECO region's tangible and intangible heritage. Both sides agreed to formalise their cooperation through a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

ECI President Attends Sixth ECOSF Board of Trustees Meeting

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, attended the sixth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), held in a hybrid format in Islamabad on 22 July 2026. The meeting reviewed progress on ongoing programmes, implementation of previous decisions, and administrative and financial matters, and approved ECOSF's work plan for the coming year. ECI's participation reflected its commitment to strengthening cooperation among ECO specialised institutions and fostering closer links between culture, science and innovation in support of sustainable development and regional integration.

ECI President Meets Kyrgyz Ambassador to Strengthen Cultural Cooperation

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, received H.E. Akylbek Kylychev, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Iran, at ECI headquarters in Tehran on 6 August 2026. The two sides discussed strengthening cultural cooperation among ECO member states, promoting intercultural dialogue and expanding opportunities for joint

cultural initiatives. Ambassador Hassan reaffirmed ECI's commitment to regional cooperation through cultural, artistic, academic and heritage programmes, while Ambassador Kylychev expressed appreciation for the Institute's role in promoting the region's cultural heritage and reaffirmed Kyrgyzstan's readiness to expand cooperation with ECI.

ECI President Holds Talks with Pakistani Diplomat on Cultural Exchange

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Ms Farhat Jabeen Ali, Press and Education Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran, at ECI headquarters on 6 August 2026. The discussion focused on expanding cultural and educational cooperation, strengthening ties among ECO member states and promoting engagement between cultural institutions. Both sides expressed interest in developing joint initiatives to foster cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

ECI and ACECR Discuss Cooperation in Research and Cultural Diplomacy

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Professor Montazeri, President of the Academic Centre for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), and senior officials of the organisation on 8 February 2026. The discussions focused on leveraging scientific and technological capacities to strengthen cultural diplomacy across the ECO region, with particular attention to joint research initiatives, intangible cultural heritage and academic exchanges.

ECI Donates 800 Specialised Books to the Islamic Encyclopaedia Foundation

As part of its ongoing book donation programme, ECI donated a collection of 800 specialised books to the Islamic Encyclopaedia Foundation to support library resources and provide researchers and readers with greater access to works on culture, history and the humanities. The donation forms part of ECI's "Donating Books, Donating Knowledge and Awareness" campaign, through which more than 2,000 book titles have previously been donated to libraries across ECO member states.

ECI President Addresses 36th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, attended the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), held at the ECO Secretariat from 17 to 20 May 2026. In his address, he emphasised the importance of cultural diplomacy, stronger regional cultural cooperation and closer collaboration among ECO institutions in the cultural, scientific and educational fields. On the sidelines of the meeting, he met with ECO Secretary-General Dr Asad Majeed Khan to discuss ECI's future programmes, joint cultural and educational initiatives, and ways to improve coordination among ECO-affiliated institutions.

ECI Participates in ECO National Libraries Expert Committee Meeting

ECI participated in the second meeting of the ECO National Libraries Expert Committee, hosted online by Türkiye's National Library on 16 June 2026. Representatives of national libraries from seven ECO member states discussed priorities and ongoing initiatives in digital libraries, education and research, and the preservation of manuscripts and rare books. Representing ECI, Ms Zahra Aslani and Ms Firouzeh Mohammadinia highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy and safeguarding the region's written heritage. The meeting concluded with an emphasis on knowledge-sharing, continued cooperation and the implementation of proposed initiatives.

ECI and Afghanistan Studies Centre Discuss Joint Cultural Programmes

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with Dr Sayed Asgar Mousavi, an Afghan researcher, writer and poet, on 12 August 2026 to discuss cultural cooperation and regional relations. The discussions highlighted opportunities to strengthen collaboration between ECI and the Afghanistan Studies Centre through

information and resource sharing, cultural and academic meetings, and joint programmes that promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

ECI President Receives Turkish Ambassador for Farewell Visit

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, received H.E. Prof. Dr Hicabi Kırlangıç, Ambassador of Türkiye to Iran, for a farewell visit on 8 July 2026, as the Ambassador approached the conclusion of his diplomatic mission. They reviewed cooperation between ECI and the Turkish Embassy and discussed opportunities to expand cultural diplomacy, joint cultural and academic programmes, and future collaborative projects. Ambassador Hassan expressed appreciation for Ambassador Kırlangıç's support in strengthening cultural relations and wished him success in his future assignments.

ECI Hosts Hungarian Ambassador to Explore Cultural Cooperation

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, received H.E. Gyula Pethő, Ambassador of Hungary to Iran, accompanied by Mr Gabor Szucs, Deputy Head of Mission at the Hungarian Embassy, at ECI on 10 August 2026. The delegation was briefed on the Institute's activities and cultural, artistic and educational programmes, and toured its facilities. The visit also provided an opportunity to exchange views on potential avenues for expanding cultural engagement and cooperation between ECI and Hungary.

ECI President Meets Cuban Ambassador to Discuss Cultural Engagement

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, met with H.E. Jorge Fernando Lefebre Nicolás, Ambassador of Cuba to Iran, at ECI headquarters on 9 August 2026. Ambassador Hassan introduced ECI's mandate, ongoing initiatives and programmes to promote cultural cooperation among ECO member states. The visit also included a tour of the Institute's departments and facilities, followed by an exchange of views on potential areas of cultural engagement and cooperation.

ECI and Uzbekistan Discuss Joint Cultural Projects and Institutional Cooperation

During his visit to Uzbekistan, ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan met with representatives of the country's Centre for Spirituality and Enlightenment in Tashkent on 16 September 2026 to explore opportunities for cultural cooperation. The discussions with Abbas Yunusov, Deputy Head of the Department for Social and Spiritual Affairs, and Bakhtiyor Khusanov, Chairman of the Association of Enlightenment of Uzbekistan, focused on shared civilizational heritage, cultural and spiritual values, joint events and projects, and the exchange of knowledge and experience. Dr Ahmet Akalın, ECI's Assistant Director, also accompanied the President. Both sides explored ways to develop sustained institutional cooperation and promote cultural dialogue across the ECO region.

ECI and Uzbekistan Explore Cultural Tourism Initiatives

During his official visit to Uzbekistan, ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan met with Mr Mirtolib Mirzakhidov, Head of the Uzbekistan Convention Bureau, in Tashkent on 16 September 2026 to explore cooperation in cultural tourism. Accompanied by ECI Assistant Director Dr Ahmet Akalın, he discussed joint initiatives to promote the ECO region's shared cultural and civilizational heritage, including projects highlighting the legacies of Alisher Navo'i and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur. The discussions also covered the potential use of social media and influencers to showcase the region's historical and cultural attractions to international audiences.

ECI Signs MoU with Uzbekistan State University of World Languages

ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan visited the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages (UzSWLU) in Tashkent on 17 September 2026, where he met with Rector Prof. Dr Ilkhomjon Tukhtasinov and Head of International Relations Khusan Yuldashev, accompanied by ECI Assistant Director Dr Ahmet Akalın. The discussions covered cooperation in languages, literature, culture, scientific research and academic exchange, including ECI's work on linguistic diversity across the ECO region and the translation and publication of literary and scholarly works. The visit culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for joint academic and cultural initiatives and the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

ECI President Visits Uzbekistan's Islamic Civilization Centre

During his visit to Uzbekistan, ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan visited the Islamic Civilization Centre in Tashkent on 19 September 2026, accompanied by ECI Assistant Director Dr Ahmet Akalın. He met with Mr Rustam Qurbonov, Deputy Director of the Centre, and learned about its work to preserve and present Central Asia's contributions to Islamic civilization, including its scientific, cultural, educational and artistic heritage. The visit highlighted the Centre's role in connecting historical scholarship with modern museology and digital technologies, as well as its contribution to preserving the region's rich cultural legacy for future generations.

ECI and Isfahan Coordinate Joint Cultural and Artistic Activities

ECI held a coordination meeting with representatives of Isfahan's municipal and cultural institutions in Tehran on 28 September 2026 to plan joint cultural and artistic activities. The discussions covered potential programmes in Isfahan, the city's capacity to host cultural events, coordination among participating institutions, and logistical arrangements for international guests and artists. The meeting formed part of ECI's efforts to expand cooperation with Isfahan and draw on the city's cultural and artistic resources for regional programmes.

2.4. Cultural Heritage and Commemorative Events

Honouring Heydar Aliyev's legacy at ECI

A memorial event, "The Role of Leaders in Strengthening Cultural and Spiritual Ties: Heydar Aliyev and ECO Countries," was held on 11 December 2025 at the ECI to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of Azerbaijan's National Leader Heydar Aliyev's passing. The event saw attendance from Iranian officials, foreign dignitaries, and Azerbaijani citizens. Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Iran, Ali Alizada, spoke about Aliyev's significant contributions to fostering cultural and spiritual ties among ECO nations. Türkiye's Ambassador, Hicabi Kırlangıç, also lauded Aliyev's leadership and impact. The ceremony concluded with the opening of a four-day photo exhibition showcasing Heydar Aliyev's engagement with ECO countries and his efforts in promoting cultural and spiritual connections.

ECO Member Countries Profile Series: Afghanistan

The ECO Cultural Institute hosted the first in a series of meetings on June 2, 2026, focusing on Afghanistan's rich culture, history, and civilization to foster regional integration and mutual understanding among ECO member states. Scholars and academics attended, emphasizing the importance of preserving Afghanistan's cultural treasures and acknowledging its role in connecting civilizations. Mr. Mohammad Hassan, ECI President, highlighted culture as a lasting link between nations, advocating for cultural understanding alongside economic cooperation for sustainable regional integration. Dr. Sayed Askar Mousavi discussed the historical evolution of Afghan culture, while Dr. Yaman Hekmat explored Afghanistan's historical geography and its impact on cultural resilience. Mr. Mehrdad Rakhshandeh, ECI Executive Director, outlined future plans to continue these events to

connect younger generations with their shared cultural heritage. The meeting concluded with discussions on developing cultural interactions and honouring the speakers.

ECO Member Countries Profile Series: Uzbekistan

On September 23, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute, in collaboration with the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Iran, hosted a special meeting to promote Uzbekistan as part of a series on ECO member states. The event also featured the launch of the poetry collection "Meraj-e Ab." Attended by ambassadors, diplomats, scholars, and academics, the meeting highlighted Uzbekistan's historical and geographical significance, its role as a cultural crossroads, and the importance of preserving spiritual heritage for cultural diplomacy among ECO nations. Speakers emphasized strengthening cultural ties, regional synergy, and the enduring historical and cultural kinship between Iran and Uzbekistan, underscoring the rich social values, traditions, and literary heritage of Uzbekistan.

ECO Member Countries Profile Series Highlights Türkiye's Rich Cultural Heritage

ECI held a cultural meeting introducing Türkiye on 1 September 2026 as part of its ECO Member Countries Profile Series. Attended by Türkiye's Ambassador to Iran, cultural officials, academics and researchers, the programme explored Türkiye's multilayered cultural heritage and its historical and cultural connections with other ECO member states. ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan highlighted Anatolia's role as a crossroads of civilisations and emphasised that cultural diversity and interaction have shaped the region's shared heritage. Other presentations examined Türkiye's cultural memory, traditional arts, architecture, music, literature, cuisine and intangible heritage, as well as the activities of the Atatürk Culture Centre in promoting Turkish culture and making folklore accessible through digital platforms. The meeting also addressed Türkiye's rich manuscript collections, the importance of cataloguing and digitising written heritage, and the potential for international cooperation in connecting manuscript databases. A presentation on Mullah Nasreddin explored the figure's significance as a shared cultural symbol known by different names across the ECO region. The programme underscored the value of recognising common cultural traditions while preserving the diversity of the region's peoples and strengthening cultural dialogue among member states.

International Symposium "The Image of Abai's Thought in the Mirror of ECO"

On August 24, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute, in collaboration with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Iran, hosted a ceremony titled "The Image of Abai's Thought in the Mirror of ECO." The event brought together ambassadors, officials, and researchers to discuss the regional and global significance of Hakim Abai Qunanbay's philosophy. Speakers highlighted Abai's ideas on inner renewal, ethics, and the integration of tradition and modernity, emphasizing his role as the founder of modern Kazakh literature and a guiding force for contemporary society. Experts presented viewpoints on Abai's rationalist school of thought, his influence on Kazakh-Kyrgyz literary ties, and his intellectual legacy concerning ethics and empathy. The ceremony concluded with a documentary screening, a cultural gift exchange, and the presentation of a book to attendees.

Commemoration of Magtymguly Pyragy held at ECI

A commemoration ceremony for Magtymguly Pyragy, titled "Magtymguly Pyragy; The Voice of Unity and Cultural Renaissance," was hosted by the ECO Cultural Institute on June 17, 2026. The event brought together diplomats, academics, and researchers to explore Pyragy's unifying philosophy. Dr. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, emphasized Pyragy's role as a symbol of social awakening and solidarity, highlighting the enduring relevance of his moral and unifying ideas in addressing contemporary societal challenges. H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gaipov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Tehran, lauded Pyragy as a pivotal cultural figure whose works, recognized by UNESCO, have transcended generations and languages. Dr. Sayfolloh Mullojon, Professor of

History, noted Pyragy's broad expertise beyond poetry, including mysticism, philosophy, and astronomy, and the influence of classical Persian poets on his work. Mr. Ali Rahbar, Director of the Turkmen Culture and Art Institute, described Pyragy as a "transnational figure" embodying Persian, Islamic mystical, and Turkmen cultural traditions, advocating for the re-examination of his heritage as a strategy for regional cultural interaction. The ceremony concluded with Ambassador Gaipov donating a collection of works on Pyragy and Turkmen culture to the ECO Cultural Institute library.

ECI President Highlights Magtymguly Pyragy's Legacy as a Shared Regional Literary Treasure

The ECI President, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, addressed a commemorative conference honouring the eighteenth-century Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy at Kharazmi University in Tehran on 11 June 2026. He highlighted the poet's enduring significance as both a national literary figure and a regional voice whose poetry promoted unity, justice, spirituality and cultural identity beyond national boundaries. Ambassador Hassan also noted Magtymguly Pyragy's influence on literary traditions in Turkmenistan and Iran, including among Iranian Turkmens and Persian-language literary circles. The conference, organised by the Turkmen House of Culture and Arts, also featured addresses by the ambassadors of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, scholarly presentations and performances by Turkmen artistic groups.

ECI President Pays Tribute to Azerbaijan's Martyrs on Remembrance Day

ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan delivered an address at a ceremony marking the Republic of Azerbaijan's Remembrance Day, held at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Tehran on 27 September 2026. He paid tribute to those who lost their lives defending their homeland and expressed condolences to their families, reflecting on the significance of remembrance, sacrifice and the responsibility to preserve their legacy. He also highlighted the shared historical and cultural connections across the ECO region, emphasising culture's role in bringing peoples together and fostering greater understanding, stability and peace.

ECI President Highlights Shams and Mowlana as Shared Regional Cultural Heritage

ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan addressed a commemorative ceremony honouring Shams of Tabriz and Jalal al-Din Muhammad Balkhi in Tehran on 29 September 2026, highlighting their place in the shared cultural and spiritual heritage of the ECO region. He emphasised that their legacy transcends national and geographical boundaries, promoting values of love, tolerance, human dignity and mutual understanding. He also underscored ECI's commitment to bringing the region's shared heritage into contemporary life through cultural dialogue, artistic collaboration, literature and engagement with younger generations.

2.5. Cultural Festivals and Regional Celebrations

ECO Film Week

ECO Film Week 2026 was held from 21 to 24 September 2026 at the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), Tehran, bringing together films from six ECO Member States. The opening ceremony was held on 21 September in the presence of Dr. Raed Faridzadeh, Head of the Cinema Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mehrdad Rakhshandeh, Executive Director of ECI, diplomats and representatives of ECO Member States, cultural officials, filmmakers, artists, academics and students.

The programme featured screenings of selected films from Iran, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Kazakhstan, accompanied by an exhibition of selected film posters from ECO Member States. The event provided an opportunity to showcase the region's cinematic and cultural diversity and to promote cultural dialogue and mutual understanding through cinema, with particular emphasis on the role of film in presenting diverse cultural perspectives and shared cultural experiences across the ECO region.

ECI Announces Winners of ECO Mobile Photography Festival

ECI announced the results of the ECO Mobile Photography Festival, held under the theme “Transmission of Intangible Heritage”, which attracted 616 participants and around 1,800 photographs from across the ECO region. Following evaluation by Iranian photographer Amir Jalilvand, 50 photographs were selected, with Seyed Mehrdad Sharifi of Iran taking first place, Shahzad Ali of Pakistan second, and Ghadir Vaghari Shorcheh of Iran third. The selected works will be featured in a festival booklet, documenting the region’s diverse intangible cultural heritage and highlighting how traditions, skills and knowledge are passed between generations.

ECI Marks Yalda Night with International Chelleh Mehr Ceremony

On 18 December 2025, the ECO Cultural Institute held the international Chelleh Mehr ceremony in commemoration of Yalda Night, bringing together ambassadors, senior officials, and leading cultural figures. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President of ECI, opened the event with remarks on Yalda’s civilizational symbolism and the shared cultural memory of the ECO region. A video message from Dr. Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri highlighted Yalda as a discourse of solidarity and a framework for regional cultural diplomacy.

The program featured contributions from prominent cultural personalities, including artistic and literary segments, traditional performances, and the unveiling of the book A Thousand Pearls (A Thousand Proverbs from ECO Member States). The ceremony also honoured artistic contributors and received extensive coverage from domestic and international media, underscoring ECI’s role in promoting shared cultural heritage across the region.

Iftar Gathering with Ambassadors of ECO Member States

On February 27, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute hosted an Iftar gathering during Ramadan. Ambassadors from ECO member states, along with Iranian and international officials, attended. The event fostered dialogue, cultural solidarity, and reinforced shared human values. High-level dignitaries, including the ECO Secretary General, emphasized Ramadan's spiritual values and the importance of regional cooperation for peace, friendship, mutual understanding, and cultural convergence. The ECI views this gathering as a crucial step in strengthening cultural ties and intercultural dialogue among member states.

2.6. Literary Heritage

ECI and Iranian Cultural Consulate Launch Iqbal’s Letters to Atiya Begum in Islamabad

ECI, in collaboration with the Cultural Consulate of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad, held the launch ceremony of Iqbal’s Letters to Atiya Begum on 12 February 2026. The book, published by ECI, brings together the correspondence between Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Atiya Begum Faizi, offering insights into the poet’s personal thoughts and intellectual life. The event featured a video message by ECI President Dr Muhammad Hassan, who highlighted the collection’s significance for understanding intellectual and cultural connections across the ECO region and reaffirmed ECI’s support for research in Iqbal Studies. Scholars and academics discussed the book’s research and editorial aspects before its official unveiling.

A Review of the Book One Thousand Pearls: One Thousand Proverbs from ECO Member States

On January 27, 2026, the ECO Cultural Institute hosted a literary session to review and critique "One Thousand Pearls: One Thousand Proverbs from ECO Member States." The event, attended by researchers, writers, and cultural enthusiasts, explored the book's content, cultural, and linguistic dimensions. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, highlighted the book's purpose as a reflection of collective wisdom and a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of ECO nations. Speakers, including the book's

compiler, discussed the shared roots of proverbs among member states, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational transmission and strengthening regional cultural ties. The session concluded with a Q&A addressing the proverb collection methods, cultural differences, and editorial process. "One Thousand Pearls," published by the ECO Cultural Institute, compiles and translates one thousand proverbs from ECO member states, aiming to foster cultural dialogue within the region.

The literary session of "Shared Voice" was held at the ECO Cultural Institute

The ECO Cultural Institute held a "Shared Voice" session on June 23, 2026, to honour bilingual poets in the ECO region, analysing their civilizational impact and shared linguistic heritage. Speakers highlighted bilingual poets as cultural ambassadors who fostered unity through figures like Jami and Fuzuli. Proposals included creating a database and atlas of these poets to strengthen cultural diplomacy. Discussions emphasized the necessity of mastering a second language for poetry, viewing it as a transregional path to peace. Experts explored the profound links between Persian and Urdu, the evolution of Persian and Turkic bilingual literature as a civilizational bond, and the unique contributions of poets like Iqbal and Shahriar in transcending linguistic and geographical boundaries to express diverse worldviews. The session concluded with a call to preserve and promote the works of these poets and support comparative research.

ECI Launches Kamand-e Zolf, a Poetry Collection by Tajik Poet Zulfiya Atoyi

ECI organised the launch of Kamand-e Zolf (The Lasso of Tresses), a 480-page collection of poems by renowned Tajik poet Zulfiya Atoyi, in Tehran on 9 June 2026. Published in Persian script by ECI Publications in collaboration with Aroon Publications, at the proposal of Tajikistan's Ministry of Culture, the book aims to introduce Atoyi's literary heritage to Persian-reading audiences and strengthen literary ties across the ECO region. The ceremony brought together diplomats, scholars and artists, including Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran, Dr Nizomiddin Zohidi, and featured remarks highlighting the collection's contribution to shared Persian literary heritage and regional cultural exchange. Atoyi also addressed the audience in a video message and recited several of her poems.

Consultative Meeting on "Collection, Editing, and Publication of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's Manuscripts"

The ECO Cultural Institute held a consultative meeting on July 14, 2026, to discuss the collection, editing, and publication of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's manuscripts. Scholars from ECO member states attended, aiming to revive and promote his written heritage. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan viewed this as an intellectual and cultural journey to recover a shared civilizational heritage, emphasizing Hamadani's enduring message of spirituality, justice, and service. Dr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to I.R. Iran, highlighted Hamadani's role as a link between hearts and civilizations, proposing practical ideas for promoting his ideas. Dr. Akbar Irani discussed challenges in examining Hamadani's 105 identified works, stressing the need for regional cooperation and a comprehensive collection. Dr. Mohammad Soori advocated for critical editing of the works, while Dr. Seyed Reza Bagherian Movahed emphasized the blend of taste and knowledge in Hamadani's heritage. Dr. Arif Naushahi recognized Hamadani's role in spreading mystical knowledge in the subcontinent, and Dr. Abdulvali Sharifzade praised his historical and literary role in Tajikistan. The meeting concluded with hopes for a permanent network of Hamadani researchers and continued regional cooperation to publish his complete works.

ECI President Emphasises Cooperation to Preserve Robia Balkhi's Literary Heritage

ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan joined diplomats, cultural officials and scholars at a conference on Robia Balkhi, the celebrated early Persian poet, held at the Embassy of Tajikistan in Tehran on 26 August 2026. Addressing her place in the region's shared cultural heritage, he highlighted the importance of republishing and

translating her works and strengthening cooperation among cultural institutions and libraries to bring her literary legacy, particularly its significance for the history of women, to wider audiences. The conference also featured presentations on Robia studies, her poetry and its mystical interpretations, and her enduring place in Persian literary history.

ECI and Alhamra Honour Pakistani Writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar

ECI, in collaboration with Lahore Arts Council (Alhamra), organised a tribute ceremony entitled Beyond Borders in Lahore, Pakistan, on 11 October 2026, honouring distinguished Pakistani writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar and his contribution to contemporary literature in the ECO region. ECI President Ambassador Muhammad Hassan and other cultural, academic and literary figures highlighted the human and cultural experiences reflected in Tarar's works and the role of literature in fostering mutual understanding among the region's peoples. The programme also featured video messages from international academics and literary figures, underscoring the power of literature to build connections across geographical and cultural boundaries.

2.7. Publications

Books

One Thousand Pearls: is a collection published by ECI featuring one thousand proverbs from all ten ECO member states. The proverbs are presented in their respective languages—Persian/Dari/Tajik, Urdu, Turkish, Kazakh, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Turkmen—with English translations and, for those in languages other than Persian, additional Persian translations. The book aims to promote mutual understanding and foster cultural dialogue across the region.

Kamand-e Zolf (The Lasso of Tresses): is a collection of poems by renowned Tajik poet Zulfiya Atoyi, published in Persian script by ECI Publications in collaboration with Aroon Publications, helping introduce Tajik literary heritage to Persian-reading audiences.

History of Herat: is a joint publication of the Miras Maktoob (Written Heritage) Research Centre and ECI, documenting the rich historical and cultural heritage of Herat and contributing to the preservation and promotion of the region's shared written heritage.

Bahao: is a novel by the famous Pakistani travel-writter Mustansar Hussain Tarar. In this Novel, the writer has fictionized the old Indus civilization. This epic novel is being translated into Farsi.

Allama Bil Qalam: is a book composed of Islamic calligraphy by famous Pakistani writters. It was first published in Arabic and then in English and Bangla. ECI is publishing its Farsi version.

Loh-e- Ayam: written by Mr. Mukhrar Masood, a former President of ECI. The book is based on the writer's observation of Iran during the early years of the Islamic revolution. ECI is translating it from Urdu to Farsi.

Ben: is the collection of poetry of an Uzbek poet Ziba Amanova. The book pffers a profound literary exploration of the human quest for self-discovery and the search for meaning in existance.

Journals

ECO Heritage: ECO HERITAGE, the flagship quarterly journal of the ECI, has continued to publish culturally rich content highlighting the artistic and literary traditions of the ECO region. During the period from September 2025 to September 2026, the journal released three regular issues, two special issues dedicated to the 35th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan and the 30th Anniversary of Neutrality of Turkmenistan, as well as an exclusive edition focusing on Cultural Policy of the ECO Member States.

ECI Newsletter: The monthly publication highlights the ECI's most recent cultural, academic and diplomatic engagements and its ongoing efforts to promote cultural dialogue and cooperation across the ECO region.

ECONAMEH: ECONAMEH, is the electronic monthly publication of the ECI, focusing on cultural heritage, cultural events, and regional interactions among the ECO Member States. During the period from September 2025 to September 2026, the monthly has released 12 issues.

Cultural Policy Research and Publications

Alongside its public programmes, ECI continued to develop research and publication initiatives intended to document the cultural life of Member States and support a more informed understanding of regional cooperation. For the first time, ECI commissioned a study of the cultural policies of ECO Member States. The study seeks to examine national approaches to cultural development, including support for artistic activity and creative industries, the safeguarding of heritage and the promotion of cultural participation.

By bringing together information on the policies and institutional frameworks of Member States, the study is intended to identify common concerns, areas of shared interest and opportunities for exchanging experience. It will provide a basis for more informed dialogue on cultural policy and help identify possible areas for future cooperation.

The initiative represents an effort to complement the Institute's cultural programmes with research that can inform policy discussion and contribute to a more sustained regional approach to cultural development.

ECI initiated the preparation of a special edition of ECO Heritage devoted to the cultural policies of ECO Member States. The edition is intended to present the approaches adopted by Member States in supporting cultural life, safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage, encouraging artistic creation and responding to contemporary cultural challenges.

Together, the commissioned study and the special edition will provide a resource for policymakers, researchers, cultural institutions and other stakeholders interested in the development of cultural cooperation across the ECO region.

3. Institutional Cooperation and Partnerships

Memorandum of Understanding with the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages

On 17 September 2026, ECI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages in Tashkent. The agreement provides a framework for cooperation in languages, literature, culture, academic exchange, research and related educational initiatives.

The partnership is intended to facilitate the exchange of expertise, promote linguistic and cultural diversity and support joint academic and cultural projects. It also provides a basis for closer engagement between ECI and higher-education institutions working in language and cultural studies.

Cooperation with Cultural Institutions in Iran and Pakistan

ECI continued consultations with Iranian cultural and academic institutions on potential joint programmes. Cooperation with the Sadequain Foundation and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts demonstrated the contribution that national cultural organisations can make to presenting the artistic heritage of Member States and bringing their cultural traditions to new audiences.

Such partnerships are important to the Institute's ability to develop programmes that draw on established expertise, collections and institutional networks.

Engagement with ECO Institutions

The President of ECI participated in the Sixth Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad on 22 July 2026. This engagement provided an opportunity to maintain institutional contact and consider areas in which culture, education, science and research may complement one another.

ECI will continue to seek cooperation with relevant ECO institutions where shared objectives and complementary expertise can contribute to the wider aims of the Organisation.

4. Institutional Development and Administrative Reform

The Institute's cultural programme depends on sound administration, clear responsibilities and the careful use of available resources. During the reporting period, ECI therefore began a series of measures to improve internal coordination and strengthen the institutional arrangements supporting its work.

4.1. A More Coherent Approach to Programme Planning

ECI reviewed the planning and implementation of its activities to reduce fragmentation and bring related initiatives within a common framework.

Programmes were reorganised into thematic clusters, allowing activities in literature, visual arts, cinema, academic exchange, cultural heritage and related fields to be planned and coordinated more systematically. The approach is intended to encourage cooperation among programme personnel, support consolidated activity calendars and make it easier to assess how individual activities contribute to the Institute's wider objectives.

Monthly programme planning was also strengthened to help align priorities with available resources and opportunities for cooperation with Member States and partner institutions.

The aim is to ensure that activities are planned as part of a coherent programme, rather than as separate events, and that staff share responsibility for their preparation, delivery and follow-up.

4.2. Organisational Reorganisation and Clarification of Responsibilities

ECI initiated a review of its organisational arrangements to clarify responsibilities among executive, programme, administrative and support units.

The reorganisation seeks to improve coordination between programme implementation and administrative and financial functions, reduce duplication and establish clearer reporting relationships. It also aims to ensure that available expertise is deployed in accordance with the Institute's priorities and operational needs.

These changes form part of an ongoing effort to establish a more coherent working structure, improve internal communication and strengthen accountability. Their effectiveness will depend on clear allocation of responsibilities and consistent implementation across the Institute.

4.3. Review of the ECI Staff Regulations

During 2026, ECI advanced the review of its Staff Regulations and prepared proposed amendments to address organisational requirements, clarify staff categories and improve the human-resource framework.

The proposals include adjustments to the distribution of posts and grades, a clearer distinction between professional cultural personnel and auxiliary support staff, and arrangements more closely aligned with the Institute's programme responsibilities.

The proposed framework seeks to strengthen professional capacity, including through greater participation by Member States in providing cultural expertise, while taking account of the Institute's financial resources.

Options were examined with particular attention to avoiding automatic supplementary budgetary implications. The proposals were submitted for consideration through the competent ECO institutional mechanisms, including the Council of Permanent Representatives.

The review is an important step towards aligning the staffing framework with the Institute's mandate and operational requirements. The proposed amendments remain subject to consideration and approval through the applicable procedures of the competent ECO bodies.

4.4. Draft Host Country Agreement

ECI continued work on the text of a Host Country Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, where the Institute's headquarters are located.

The agreement is intended to establish a clearer legal and administrative framework for the Institute's functioning in the host country. The matters addressed include the institutional status of ECI, the conditions necessary for the performance of its official functions, and the status and treatment of its personnel, in accordance with the applicable legal framework and arrangements to be agreed between ECO and the host country.

Progress towards finalising the draft text is an important step in clarifying the respective responsibilities of ECO and the host country and the arrangements required for the Institute's effective functioning.

The formal conclusion, approval and entry into force of the agreement remain subject to the procedures of the competent authorities.

4.5. Financial Administration and Internal Controls

ECI continued efforts to strengthen financial administration, expenditure monitoring and documentary accountability.

Measures included the systematic recording of transactions through the Institute's financial management system, improved organisation of financial records, more consistent documentation of programme-related expenditure and reinforcement of expenditure authorisation procedures.

The Institute also sought to strengthen the links between programme planning, resource allocation and expenditure monitoring. These measures are intended to support reliable financial reporting, facilitate external audit and ensure that contributions made available by Member States are administered responsibly.

The continuing objective is to improve the transparency and consistency of financial management and to ensure that available resources are directed towards approved activities and institutional priorities.

4.6. Improvement of Conference and Meeting Facilities

During 2026, ECI undertook improvements to its conference and meeting facilities at its Tehran headquarters. The purpose was to strengthen the Institute's capacity to host international conferences, cultural events, academic discussions and meetings involving ECO bodies and partner institutions.

The improvements were intended to enhance the functionality of the conference environment and provide a more suitable setting for visiting delegations, speakers, researchers, artists and cultural professionals.

This work forms part of the Institute's wider efforts to improve its operational facilities and support the effective delivery of its programme.

4.7. Significance of the Institutional Reforms

The measures initiated during the reporting period address different but closely related aspects of the Institute's work. Programme clustering and organisational reorganisation seek to improve coordination; the review of the Staff Regulations aims to align staffing arrangements with institutional needs; work on the Host Country Agreement addresses the legal and administrative framework; and improvements in financial procedures and conference facilities support the Institute's day-to-day operations.

Together, these efforts are intended to provide a sounder basis for ECI's work and enable it to make more effective use of its professional capacity and available resources. Continued progress will require sustained implementation and cooperation with the relevant ECO bodies and Member States.

5. Priorities for the Remainder of 2026

For the remainder of the year, ECI will focus on consolidating the work already undertaken and advancing initiatives that can strengthen cultural cooperation and institutional effectiveness.

The principal priorities are to:

1. Continue developing regional cinema cooperation, including the Shared Horizons initiative and opportunities for collaboration among filmmakers and film institutions.

2. Hold the second ECO Media Literacy Conference in Islamabad on 17–18 November 2026, in cooperation with Riphah International University, and strengthen regional dialogue on media and information literacy.

3. Advance literary translation, manuscript preservation and publication initiatives, including work relating to Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, Bahao, Allama Bil Qalam and other literary and historical works.

4. Continue the commissioned study of cultural policies of ECO Member States and prepare the special edition of ECO Heritage devoted to cultural policy.

5. Follow up on the development of the Network of ECO Art Universities, including preparations for its second meeting in Lahore, Pakistan, from 28-30 November 2026 and identify practical opportunities for academic exchange and joint activities.

6. Develop cooperation with the Yunus Emre Institute on a children's cultural programme and pursue initiatives that encourage young people to participate in cultural diplomacy and regional exchange.

7. Continue publishing ECONameh/ECONAMA and the ECI Newsletter, encourage contributions from Member States and give wider visibility to their cultural achievements.

8. Continue refining programme clusters, organisational responsibilities and internal coordination mechanisms.

9. Pursue consideration of the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations through the competent ECO bodies.

10. Follow up on the draft Host Country Agreement through the appropriate institutional and host-country procedures.

11. Further strengthen financial administration, expenditure monitoring, documentary records and institutional reporting.

12. Consolidate improvements to the Institute's conference facilities and working environment.

13. Explore opportunities to celebrate shared cultural traditions, including Shab-e Yalda, as occasions for cultural dialogue and the transmission of literary and intangible heritage.

6. Conclusion

During the reporting period, the ECO Cultural Institute continued to promote cultural cooperation through artistic exchange, cinema, literature, translation, scholarly dialogue, research and regional publications. Its activities brought attention to the cultural achievements of Member States and to the historical relationships that have shaped the region's diverse traditions.

The Institute's work in literature and translation, the preservation of manuscripts, cultural policy research and regional academic cooperation reflects a commitment to making the region's cultural heritage accessible and relevant to wider audiences. Its exhibitions, conferences and partnerships have also provided opportunities for cultural professionals, scholars, artists and institutions to meet and explore common interests.

At the same time, ECI began addressing the institutional requirements that underpin its programme. The review of programme planning and organisational arrangements, proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations, work on the draft Host Country Agreement, improvements in financial administration and the upgrading of conference facilities are intended to strengthen the Institute's capacity to fulfil its mandate.

Cultural cooperation is sustained through continuing relationships and shared endeavour. ECI therefore looks to the Member States, the governing bodies of ECO, diplomatic missions, universities, cultural institutions, artists, researchers and other partners to help carry these initiatives forward.

The Institute remains committed to safeguarding the shared heritage of the ECO region, supporting its cultural and creative life, encouraging dialogue among its peoples and translating their longstanding cultural connections into meaningful opportunities for cooperation.

ECI expresses its appreciation to all Member States and partners whose participation and support have contributed to its activities during the reporting period. Their continued cooperation will be essential to the further development of the Institute's work and to the advancement of the cultural objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

25 October 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1277

Priority: Normal
Date: 28/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Note verbal no. ECOSF/30-COM/2026 dated 27th October 2026 received from ECO Science Foundation forwarding the Annual Progress Report of ECOSF for the year 2026.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of 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 Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Most Immediate
Ref: No. ECOSF/30-COM/2026
Dated: October 27, 2026

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) presents its compliments to the ECO Secretariat in Tehran and, with reference to the ECO Secretariat Note Verbale No.IR/2026/1160 dated 13 October 2026 concerning the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), has the honour to forward herewith the **Annual Progress Report of ECOSF for the year 2026**, attached as Annex-I.

The ECO Science Foundation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed ECO Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran-Iran

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Annex-I

Progress Report of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
for the 30th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM)
Islamabad - Pakistan

Introduction

The **ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)** is a specialized agency of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), envisioned under the "Treaty of Izmir," which serves as the ECO Charter. The ECOSF Charter was signed in Islamabad in March 1995 by ten ECO Member States i.e., Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In 2007, the ECO Council of Ministers approved an Additional Protocol to this Charter during its 17th meeting in Herat, Afghanistan. The Foundation was subsequently established in Islamabad, Pakistan, on December 20, 2011, marked by the inaugural meeting of its Board of Trustees (BoT), its principal decision-making body.

The Foundation actively collaborates with stakeholders and partners to drive scientific and socio-economic achievements through scientific and technological initiatives among its Member States. It acts as a hub for promoting Science and Technology Policy, Research, and STEM education, primarily through the Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) pedagogy, with the goal of building a strong science foundation for future generations. ECOSF undertakes various programs and initiatives to support STI activities, working alongside strategic partners to enhance regional cooperation through science education and literacy. These efforts align with ECO Vision 2025 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ECOSF pursues the goal of promoting research and technological development for sustainability in the ECO region over the following key objectives:

- Development of **Human Resource** Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation as well as science literacy in the ECO region
- Strengthening **Institutional Capacity** in scientific research and technological development among its Member State
- Implementing Scientific, Technological and Research **Collaboration and Cooperation** among its member states and the vibrant STI ecosystem in the world,
- Promoting **Exchange/ dissemination** of Information on Scientific and Technological Research and Development through workshops, conferences and meetings etc.

The progress of ECOSF activities undertaken during November 2025 to October 2026 is briefly highlighted as below.

A. Administrative

1. **The 6th Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 22 July 2026**

   The 6th Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22 July 2026. The Meeting was inaugurated by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, H.E. Dr. Hossein Simaee Sarraf, Minister for Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In accordance with the ECOSF Rules of Procedure, following the inaugural session, the Chairmanship of the Meeting was assumed by the host country, H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Minister for Science and Technology (MoST) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

   The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Kazakhstan (online), the Republic of Tajikistan (online), the Republic of Türkiye (online), Turkmenistan (online), and the Republic of Uzbekistan (online). The ECO Secretariat was represented by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of ECO. The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) was represented by its President, H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, while the President of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI), Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, participated virtually.

   The BoT Meeting was preceded by the 8th Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) on 21 July 2026, under the chairmanship of President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi. Welcoming the delegates, the President ECOSF gave a brief overview of the progress made by ECOSF since the last BoT Meeting and expressed hope that positive and constructive contributions would help the Committee successfully finalize preparations for the BoT Meeting. The EC held in-depth discussions on the agenda items and made recommendations, inter alia, on the status of ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol; mandatory budgetary contributions and contributions to the S&T Fund; adoption of the ECOSF Annual Reports; the ECOSF Strategic Plan and Organizational Restructuring Agenda; the Draft Work Plan for 2026–2028; the proposed new programmes of the Foundation; approval of the ECOSF Accounts and Budgetary Estimates; the appointment of the next President of ECOSF; and the Draft Islamabad Communiqué 2026 for adoption by the Board. The Committee also prepared and endorsed the Draft Report of the 6th BoT Meeting.

2. **Appointment/Extension of President ECOSF and Executive Director ECOSF**:
   The Tenure of incumbent President ECOSF **Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi**, a national of the Islamic Republic of Iran was expired on August 10, 2025. In New nominations were invited from the ratifying Member States for the position of the 3rd President ECOSF. In response to the call for nominations, only two nominations received from Iran and Pakistan respectively. Iran freshly nominated Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi (incumbent Present), whereas Pakistan nominated Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon who holds the position of Executive Director ECOSF.

   The Board of Trustees unanimously decided in its 6th Meeting of the Board that **Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, current President of ECOSF and nominee of I.R. of Iran, will be granted another term of 3 years as President of ECOSF,**

effective from the expiration of his first term on August 10, 2025, which will expire on 10th August 2028 with no further extension. The Board also decided that Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, current Executive Director and nominee of I.R. of Pakistan, whose tenure will end on March 27, 2027, will be granted another term, as Executive Director, for 4 years till March 27, 2031, effective from the expiration of his first term.

3. **Ratification Process:** Ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol has so far been completed by five Member States, i.e., Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Other Members are continuously being pursued in line with formal meetings/visits and the decisions of ECOSF BoT, RPC and ECO COM; whereby the non-ratifying Member States have repeatedly been requested to ratify the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol.

   ECOSF renews its requests to non-ratifying Member States, viz., Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan to expedite the process of ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol.

4. **Nominations of Focal Points**: Member Countries i.e., Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan have nominated their Focal Points (FPs), whereas the nominations from other Member States (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are still awaited. **In this context, ECOSF renews the request to its member states for their nominations of active Focal Points for ECOSF from relevant organizations/institutions mandated for science and technology for effective communication.**

5. **Nominations for Executive Committee**: The nominations of Eminent Scientists for Executive Committee (EC) of ECOSF were received only from three Member States i.e., Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan whereas, the nominations from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye and Turkmenistan are still awaited. **ECOSF renews the request to the Member States for the nominations of Eminent Scientists for the Executive Committee of ECOSF.**

B. Participation in ECO Event

1. **ECOSF participated in the 29th ECO Council of Ministers (COM):** The ECO Council of Ministers (COM) successfully convened online on November 28, 2025, with participation of Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers from the ECO countries. ECO specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies, as well as ECO observers and partner international organizations, including the Turkish Cypriot State, Organization of Turkic States, and CICA also attended the event.

   On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi along with Executive Director, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon and other ECOSF officials participated virtually in the Meeting.

   In his remarks the Secretary General of ECO, Dr. Asad M. Khan, noted that in 2025, the ECO witnessed a remarkable revival of its ministerial and high-level engagement processes, marked by strong participation of all Member States. He also noted that the 17th ECO Summit held in Khankendi under the theme “New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future,” was a major milestone

in ECO's history, introducing the first-ever ECO Week, which brought together a range of stakeholders, including women, youth and business communities to deliberate on the Organization's future priorities. He then briefed the Council on major achievements in the priority sectors of regional cooperation; trade, transport, law enforcement and crime prevention, energy, environment, tourism, agriculture, industry, human resources and sustainable development.

The Council also commended ECO's expanding global engagement to strengthen partnerships with international and regional organizations, including enhanced collaboration with United Nations agencies and international financial institutions. These relationships were recognized as pivotal to advancing ECO's objectives and increasing its international visibility.

2. **President ECOSF participated in the 30th Executive Committee and 20th General Assembly of ECO-CCI in Karachi held on 22 January 2026**: On the special invitation of President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and President of the Economic Cooperation Organization Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI), Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF participated in the 30th Executive Committee and 20th General Assembly meetings of the 10-Country ECO-CCI held on January 22, 2026 in Karachi, Pakistan. In his remarks, Prof. Tayebi highlighted how science, technology and innovation are critical drivers of competitiveness, productivity, and inclusive economic growth in today's rapidly evolving global economy. Drawing attention to the ECO region's rich human capital and strategic resources, President ECOSF emphasized that aligning scientific collaboration with economic priorities can accelerate progress toward diversified economies, increased intra-regional trade and shared prosperity.

   The high-level gatherings were hosted by FPCCI on the sidelines of the 2nd Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo 2026.

3. **ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) participated in the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 17 May 2026**: The 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran in a hybrid format, bringing together delegations from member states, observers, and representatives of specialized agencies and affiliated bodies. ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan emphasized the RPC's role as a key institutional mechanism for guiding strategy, reviewing progress, and shaping future direction, while also highlighting major achievements and initiatives, including the vision document "Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035" and ongoing reform processes

   The ECO Science Foundation was represented by its President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi and team members. During the plenary session, the member states and agency representatives shared their statements. In his statement, Prof. Tayebi highlighted the critical importance of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development and economic growth in the ECO region, reaffirming ECOSF's commitment to advancing this agenda through partnerships.

   The meeting also observed a moment of silence in solidarity with Iran and to honor the victims of recent hardships.

C. Financial Status

1. Budgetary Contributions by Member States:

Only two Member States viz., Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Islamic Republic of Iran have contributed so far to ECOSF budget. I. R. of Pakistan has regularly paid full budget contribution for the years 2012 - 2017, and from 2018 onward Pakistan is contributing 87% of its Mandatory Contribution. While the I. R. of Iran has paid full contribution for the year 2012, partial 2013 (31%), 2023 (83%), 2024 (69%) and 2025 (29%). Besides Iran has also contributed in-kind support to ECOSF events in Iran in 2017 & 2018. Other three ratifying members viz., Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have not made any budget contribution so far.

Table 1: Status of mandatory budgetary contributions during 2012 - 2026 by ratifying Member States:

Amount US$ Million

Country	Budgetary Contribution Due	Contribution Paid	Arrears Payable	% Paid
Afghanistan	0.772	-	0.772	0%
Iran	3.382	0.813	2.569	24%
Pakistan	3.382	2.963	0.419	87%
Tajikistan	0.945	-	0.945	0%
Turkmenistan	0.945	-	0.945	0%
Grand Total	9.426	3.776	5.650	40%

Source: Compiled by ECOSF

Foundation continuously communicated with the Member States through meetings and correspondences about the payment of budgetary contributions. Owing to non-payment of mandatory contribution by concerned Member States, ECOSF has been compelled to scale down its core activities and finds it extremely challenging to manage its day-to-day administrative affairs including due payment of staff salaries including President ECOSF. ECOSF requests the ratifying Member States for early payment of budgetary contributions/arrears as per scale of assessment approved by the BoT so that the realization of ECOSF objectives can be achieved amicably.

2. **I.R. of Iran is requested to Fulfill ECOSF Budget Commitments**

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran committed to clearing all its arrears for its Mandatory Budgetary Contributions to ECOSF, contingent upon the appointment of an Iranian national as the President of ECOSF.

It has been over four years since Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, Iran's nominee, assumed the position of President of ECOSF on August 11, 2022. I.R of Iran has yet to fulfill its binding commitment to pay the arrears payable for Mandatory Budgetary Contributions to ECOSF, based on the decision of the 4th meeting of Board of Trustees.

ECOSF acknowledges the fact that I.R of Iran had opened the channel for funds transfer mechanism and made partial payments for last three years of its due contribution share for 2023 (83%), 2024 (69%) and 2025 (29%) only. Moreover, I.R of Iran authorities informed that they are in the process of payment of remaining due contributions including arrears equivalent to US$ 2.569 Million.

During the 6th Meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees Meeting held on 22 July 2026, I.R. of Iran made a renewed commitment to pay US$ 1 million in arrears within one year of the holding of the 6th Meeting of ECOSF BoT in two equal six-monthly installments and the remaining US$ 1.569 million arrears in following year by August 2028, in addition to its regular contribution. The Board while deciding on the appointment of Next President of ECOSF accepted and approved Iran’s nomination on conditional basis of renewed commitment by I.R. of Iran.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is kindly requested to pay its mandatory budgetary contributions arrears and current years contributions to ECOSF, in accordance with the decisions by the Boards.

D. Scientific Activities

Established in 2011 and operational since June 2013, the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) has grown into a vibrant organization committed to promoting Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), STEM education, sustainable development, and Climate Change Education. Its mission is to strengthen the capacity of Member States to address emerging global challenges.

During the reporting period (Nov 2025 – Oct 2026), ECOSF achieved significant progress in fostering scientific research and innovation—particularly among youth—to uplift the socio-economic conditions of its 10 Member States. These accomplishments were made possible through collaborations with regional and international partners, including initiatives aligned with China’s Belt and Road framework.

Over the years, persistent funding limitations have compelled ECOSF to scale down some of its core programs. Nonetheless, the Foundation has successfully adapted by implementing its activities through digital, virtual, and hybrid platforms. The key scientific initiatives and partnerships undertaken are detailed during the reporting period in the following sections.

1. **Collaboration and Signing of MoUs**:

Collaboration with regional and international institutions and organizations plays a vital role in advancing the ECO Science Foundation's (ECOSF) objectives of promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), STEM education, and sustainable development across the ECO region. Such partnerships facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge, expertise, and best practices; strengthen institutional and human resource capacities; and create opportunities for joint research, innovation, and capacity-building initiatives.

Keeping in view the importance of the collaboration, the ECOSF has signed a number of Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with regional and international institutes/organizations. These collaborations are particularly valuable in the context of financial constraints, enabling ECOSF to sustain and expand its outreach, strengthen regional scientific cooperation, and contribute to inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development across its ten Member States.

During the reporting period, an MoU with Islamic World S&T Monitoring and Citation Institute (ISC), Shiraz-Iran was signed.

2. **Organization of Scientific Conferences/Workshops/ Meetings**

a. **ECOSF contributed the 9th Iran International Conference on Engineering Education (IICEE2025):** ECOSF participated in the 9th Iran International Conference on Engineering Education (IICEE2025), which was held at Arak University, Arak, Iran, on November 05-06, 2025. As a keynote speaker, President ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, presented his speech titled: "Promoting Regional Engineering Education: Experiences from ECOSF Region." Prof. Tayebi first briefed the ECOSF background, programs and activities to the audience. He said the vision of the ECOSF is to promote and support scientific alliance and innovation among 10 ECO member states with a vision to contribute to the sustainable economic development and well-being of the ECO region. ECOSF has been Providing more in-depth and expert technical advice to the Member Countries. Therefore, ECOSF pursues the goal of promoting research and technological development for sustainable development and economic growth in the ECO Region through following key areas: human resource capacity, institutional capacity, research collaboration and exchange information.

b. **ECOSF celebrated the World Science Day 2025:** The World Science Day for Peace and Development 2025 was celebrated on November 10, 2025 in Islamabad with great enthusiasm under the theme "Trust, Transformation and Tomorrow – The Science We Need for 2050" at the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), Islamabad. The event was jointly organized by the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), UNESCO Pakistan, the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

The celebration brought together leading scientists, diplomats, educators, and policymakers to highlight the power of science in building trust, driving innovation, and shaping a sustainable future. The discussions emphasized how scientific knowledge and robust research and development initiatives can drive

competitiveness among developing economies and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

c. **ECOSF & SUMS–TUMS Webinar — Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in the ECO Region:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with Smart University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), hosted a timely webinar titled "Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in the ECO Region" on November 12, 2025. The event convened policymakers, experts, and researchers from across ECO member states to explore strategies for strengthening public health systems against the growing threats posed by climate change.

d. **ECOSF & UISMS Webinar Explores the Road "From Quantum Principles to Reliable Quantum Computation:** ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with Union of Iranian Societies of Mathematical Sciences (UISMS), hosted a compelling webinar titled "The Pathway from Quantum Principles to Reliable Quantum Computation" on November 27, 2025. The event was led by Dr. Laleh Memarzadeh (Department of Physics, Sharif University of Technology, Iran), with moderation by Prof. Vahid Karimpour from the same institution, and attracted researchers, students, faculty, and anyone interested in quantum mechanics, quantum information science, and future-oriented computation.

e. **ECOSF Hosts Webinar on Innovation Ecosystem as part of its Science Chronicles Webinar Series.** ECOSF in collaboration with the Imran Pervaz Khan Institute (IPKI) and the Union of Iranian Societies of Mathematical Sciences (UISMS), hosted a joint webinar on "Innovation Leadership in Europe: Lessons from Central and Eastern European Ecosystems" on 11 December 2025. The online session drew researchers, policymakers, academics, and innovation stakeholders from across the ECO region to gain insight into Europe's innovation landscape and extract practical lessons for emerging ecosystems.The webinar was delivered by Ms. Eva Mejtová, Innovation Specialist & Founder of GrantHub and EIT Community Officer for Czechia, who shared her expertise on how Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries such as Czechia, Estonia, Poland, and Slovakia have transitioned from post-transition economies into competitive innovation systems, with lessons to learn for ECO member states.

f. **ECOSF hosted a webinar under its Science Chronicles Webinar Series, featuring renowned Scientist Prof. N. M. Butt:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) hosted a webinar on its Science Chronicles Webinar Series, featuring Dr. N. M. Butt, S.I., Professor and Chairman, Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT), Preston University, Islamabd, who delivered an insightful lecture on Nanotechnology and Emerging Trends, including its Interaction with Artificial Intelligence, on Feb. 25, 2026. Prof. Butt provided a comprehensive overview of nanotechnology's expanding applications across diverse industries, underscoring its scientific, technological, and socioeconomic significance. He highlighted recent innovations, including the development of bone repair paste and nanotechnology-based drills used in

cardiology. He also discussed the integration of nanotechnology with artificial intelligence, emphasizing their mutual benefits in advancing material science while cautioning about responsible application in sensitive domains such as nuclear and air defense technologies.

g. **ECOSF in partnership with NAYS hosted Science Chronicles Webinar on Protected Areas and Regional Collaboration in the ECO Region:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in partnership with the National Academy of Young Scientists (NAYS), successfully organized a session of the Science Chronicles Webinar Series on "The Potential Role of Protected Areas in the Promotion of Collaboration, Scientific Research and Innovation in Management among the ECO Member Countries" on 16 April 2026. The webinar featured Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Advisor, Inter-University Consortium on Climate Change and Biodiversity; Chairman, Board of Directors – Fund for Protected Areas; and Recipient of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Kenton Miller Global Conservation Award, as the keynote speaker. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager, ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi presented his special remarks during the webinar.

h. **ECOSF Co-organized 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters in partnership with CPJRC:** The 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on "Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters" was held on May 18–19, 2026 at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Islamabad bringing together researchers, policymakers, disaster management professionals, diplomats, and technical experts from Pakistan, China, and other countries.Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF participated as an invited panelist in the Panel Discussion and Closing Ceremony of the symposium. Prof. Tayebi underscored the need to leverage the CPJRC platform and gradually expand its benefits to the wider ECO region by adapting the China-Pakistan cooperation model.

   The symposium was jointly organized by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), UNESCO Chair for Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE) and Quaid-i-Azam University.

   The event focused on strengthening regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience, with particular attention to hydrological and geological hazard monitoring, early warning systems, data-sharing mechanisms, and institutional preparedness against climate-induced disasters, including floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), debris flows, and related mountain hazards.

i. **ECOSF Presented Technical Perspective on Risk-Informed Green Transport Corridors at 2nd China-Pakistan Symposium:** Islamabad, May 19, 2026: ECOSF contributed to the technical parallel session during the 2nd China-Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters held at NDMA, Islamabad. Mr. Khalil Raza, Program Manager –

Energy & Climate at the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), delivered a technical presentation titled “Risk-Informed Green Transport Corridors for a Climate-Resilient ECO Region,” he emphasized the ECO region’s strategic importance as a bridge linking Asia, Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean. He noted, however, that these transport corridors pass through highly climate-vulnerable and hazard-prone areas, where threats such as glacial lake outburst floods, landslides, earthquakes, flash floods, extreme heat, drought, coastal risks, and Caspian Sea level changes can disrupt infrastructure and regional trade.

j. **World Water Day 2026 Highlights Urgent Need for Climate-Resilient and Gender-Responsive Water Governance in Pakistan:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) partnered with UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, the UNESCO Water Chair at COMSATS University Islamabad, the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), the Global Climate-Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) co-organized the World Water Day 2026 in Islamabad on June 16, 2026, under the theme “Water and Gender.” The event brought together policymakers, United Nations agencies, researchers, development partners, and civil-society representatives to strengthen action on water security, climate resilience, and gender-responsive governance in Pakistan.

   The event marked the launch of three major publications: the United Nations World Water Development Report 2026, the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2025 Report, and the Guidelines for Science, Policy, Practice Interface for Achieving Water Security in Pakistan.

k. **ECOSF in collaboration with the Partners hosted 5th Hands-on Islamabad STEM Camp at AIOU in August 2026:** 5th Hands-on Islamabad STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Camp was held from August 3-8, 2026, at the Main Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, providing young students with an engaging platform to explore science, technology and engineering through practical, hands-on learning.

   The six-day Camp, held from 3 to 8 August 2026, was jointly organized by the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Pakistan Science Club (PSC), and NUVEX (Pakistan). The initiative builds upon the successful collaboration between ECOSF, AIOU and PSC in previous editions of the Islamabad STEM Camp. This year, NUVEX joined the initiative as a new partner, adding engineering, aerodynamics and racing-car activities to the programme. The 5th Islamabad STEM Camp was organized with the shared vision of inspiring young minds to learn, experiment, innovate and develop solutions to real-world challenges through STEM.

   In the Closing Ceremony, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the ceremony as Chief Guest, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, appreciated the successful organization of the Camp and thanked the partner organizations, students, parents, volunteers and all other individuals who contributed to its success. He emphasized the importance of encouraging young people to explore science and technology through practical learning and collaborative educational initiatives.

A total of 105 students participated in the Camp, with 80 students engaged by Pakistan Science Club and 25 students by NUVEX. The programme adopted a hands-on, project-based approach, enabling students to apply scientific and engineering concepts to practical, real-world challenges.

l. **ECOSF, Regional Partners Held Session on Technology-Enhanced Learning at 13th ICELET in Shiraz, Iran:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) hosted a dedicated session titled "Technology Enhanced Learning: The Experience of ECO Member Countries" on Thursday, held in hybrid format on 27 August 2026 as part of the 13th International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICELET) 2026. The session was organized in a hybrid format in partnership with the Islamic World Science, Technology and Innovation Monitoring and Citation Center (ISC) and the e-Learning Association of Iran (YADA), and was moderated by Khalil Raza, Program Manager at ECOSF. The session brought together five speakers from across the ECO region to discuss how digital and AI-enabled tools are reshaping teaching and learning, ranging from smart classrooms and generative AI in medical education to national digital-divide initiatives and regional policy on inclusive learning. Each speaker was allotted twelve minutes to present, with the floor subsequently opened for a joint question-and-answer session and closing remarks. Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF joined the session in person in Shiraz who offered a regional overview, tracing the trajectory of technology-enhanced learning across the ECO region from access and resilience toward AI-enabled, inclusive learning.

In addition**,** Prof. Tayebi attended the inaugural ceremony of the 19th National Conference and 13th International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICeLeT 2026) as one of the lead organizers of the Conference. He delivered a presentation to highlight the partnership of ECOSF with the conference since 2023 to 2026.

m. **UNESCO, COMSATS and ECOSF Launched Regional Webinar Series with Session on Bioethics and Human Rights held on 9 September 2026:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in partnership with UNESCO and COMSATS, launched the joint UNESCO–COMSATS–ECOSF Regional Webinar Series on 9 September 2026. The inaugural session focused on nitiatives on bioethics and human rights. In his opening remarks, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, stressed that innovation must be balanced with rights, privacy and informed consent, and reaffirmed ECOSF's commitment to promoting ethical science across the ECO region. The discussion in this webinar reinforced a central message: scientific progress must remain responsible, inclusive and people centered.

n. **UNESCO, COMSATS and ECOSF Held Second Regional Webinar on Ethics of Science and Technology** on 7 October 2026: The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Pakistan and the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), organized the second webinar of the Webinar Series on Science, Ethics and Innovation on 7 October 2026. Held online under the theme

"Ethics of Science and Technology," the session formed part of the series organized under the framework of the **International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033)**.

The webinar aimed to increase awareness of UNESCO's approach to the ethics of science and technology and to promote dialogue on how scientific and technological innovation can contribute to sustainable development while upholding ethical values and fundamental human rights. Building on the inaugural session on bioethics and human rights held on 9 September 2026, the discussion reaffirmed the shared commitment of UNESCO, COMSATS and ECOSF to fostering responsible and inclusive science across the region.

o. **ECOSF facilitated/arranged teams from its Member States for the Participation in the 10th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop held in China:** The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) participated in the 10th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop, held in China in the cities of Nanning-Guangxi (September 18-22, 2026) and Xi'an-Shaanxi (October 14-19, 2026) under the theme "AI Education for a Better Future." The event brought together more than 200 participants from 24 countries and autonomous regions for youth science education, hands-on learning, teacher exchange, technological exposure and cultural interaction.

As a supporting organization, ECOSF facilitated the participation of 76 students and teachers from seven ECO Member States—Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan with following details:

Country	Students	Teachers	Total
Azerbaijan	3	2	5
Iran	5	2	7
Kazakhstan	10	4	14
Kyrgyzstan	10	2	12
Pakistan	10	4	14
Tajikistan	8	3	11
Türkiye	5	2	7
Turkmenistan	4	1	5
Uzbekistan	5	3	8
Total:	**60**	**23**	**83**

Two ECOSF delegations also participated in the camps held in Nanning and Xi'an, China. The Nanning Camp was attended by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi,

President ECOSF, and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Manager (Administration), while the Xi'an Camp was attended by Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director ECOSF, and Mr. Adnan Ali Abbasi, Manager (Accounts and Finance).

The programme featured a diverse range of science, technology and cultural activities. ECOSF delegates and ECO participants visited the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo, the Guangxi Subtropical Botanical Garden, Guangxi Science and Technology Museum, Anthropology Museum of Guangxi, China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Collaborative Innovation Center and China-ASEAN Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center. These visits provided participants with practical exposure to artificial intelligence, robotics, satellite remote sensing, natural sciences, environmental knowledge and cultural heritage.

The participation of ECOSF and eight ECO Member States strengthened the visibility of the ECO region within the Belt and Road science-education exchange and reinforced ECOSF's role as a platform for regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation education. The programme also provided opportunities to explore future collaboration with CAST, CYSC, BRISEC and other international science-education partners, particularly in AI literacy, maker education, STEM and teacher capacity building.

p. **ECOSF Co-organized the "Best Practices in Education" Session at International Conference on Research and Practices in Education (ICRPE) 2026 held on 22 September 2026:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) co-organized the "Best Practices in Education" session of the 9th International Conference on Research and Practices in Education (ICRPE 2026), held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, on 22 September 2026. The session brought together education leaders, institutional heads and sector experts to discuss innovative frameworks, inclusive practices and systemic advancements in the learning ecosystem. The session was moderated by Dr. Tahira Bibi of the Faculty of Education, AIOU.

q. **CECECO and ECO Science Foundation Hold Regional Webinar on Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region:** The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and the Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Center (CECECO) jointly organized a regional webinar titled "Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region," bringing together policymakers, experts, and practitioners to discuss transport emissions, electric vehicle adoption, and the transition towards sustainable mobility across the ECO region. The webinar, held on September 28, 2026, stressed the significance of harmonizing standards, developing interconnected charging networks along regional transport corridors, and strengthening cooperation in research, technology, and knowledge exchange.

In his welcoming remarks, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, sharing experiences, common standards, and capacity building to advance sustainable transport and electric mobility. He also highlighted the region's transport emissions, growing electric vehicle market, and opportunities for joint action among ECO Member Countries. Furthermore, Ms. Aysel Yagubova, Executive Director of CECECO, underlined the position of integrating electric mobility with the broader clean

energy transition. She emphasized the role of renewable energy, reliable electricity grids, energy storage, and charging infrastructure in supporting sustainable transport, reducing transport-related emissions, improving urban air quality, and strengthening energy security. Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General of the ECO Secretariat, also delivered special remarks on behalf of the Secretariat, emphasizing the role of sustainable transport and electric mobility in strengthening economic resilience, reducing environmental impacts, and promoting green innovation across the region.

The event provided a platform for sharing experiences, identifying common challenges, and exploring practical opportunities for regional cooperation in sustainable transport and electric mobility, reaffirming the importance of collaboration in supporting a cleaner, more connected, and sustainable ECO region. The speakers were from Iran, Pakistan, and China.

r. **President ECOSF Participated in the Conference on the Strait of Hormuz: Legal and Economic Challenges, Hosted by University of Tehran::** Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, participated virtually in the conference on “The Straits of Hormuz Legal and Economic Challenges,” organized by the Caspian International Maritime Law Center (CIMLAC) at the Faculty of Governance, University of Tehran, on May 13, 2026.

In his presentation, Prof. Tayebi explained that a potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz could trigger cascading global economic consequences described as a “tsunami effect” on energy flows and supply chains. As a route carrying nearly 20% of the world’s oil, even the threat of disruption creates immediate psychological and financial reactions in global markets, raising oil prices, insurance premiums, and shipping costs, while setting off a domino effect across international trade and financial systems. He further noted that this vulnerability exposes global supply chain fragility, disrupts industries worldwide, weakens import-dependent economies, and forces central banks into difficult policy trade-offs, with trade growth projections for April 2026 falling to 1.5%–2.5% and potential losses reaching $20 billion per day.

s. **World Environment Day 2026 Seminar Highlights Community-Led Climate Action:** Welfare Organization for Reformist and Social Development (WORDS) and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme, organized a high-level seminar and community mobilization event to mark World Environment Day 2026 at the Islamabad Club, Islamabad, on June 05, 2026.

Held under the national theme “Resilient & Rising Pakistan,” the event brought together parliamentarians, government officials, environmental experts, development partners, civil-society representatives, and youth leaders to discuss Pakistan’s growing climate vulnerabilities and practical pathways for community-led environmental action.

The expert panel discussion focused on climate policy implementation, inter-agency coordination, local adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and the role of research in climate-resilient development.

Mr. Khalil Raza, ECOSF Program Manager for Energy & Climate, participated as a panelist in the expert panel discussion. Mr. Raza highlighted that Pakistan’s

diverse geography makes its climate risks highly location-specific, with each region facing distinct environmental threats. He emphasized that, given Pakistan's structural economic constraints, climate action must focus on practical, locally driven and resource-efficient solutions.

E. **Participation/Contribution of ECOSF in the Scientific Meetings, Seminars, Workshops**: ECOSF actively engages in national, regional, and international forums addressing science, technology, environmental sustainability, and innovation. These engagements strengthen institutional partnerships, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote innovative approaches and technologies. During 2026, ECOSF participated in over 40 major meetings and events, as highlighted in its newsletters, website and social media (facebook, twitter/X) and delivered presentations at many of them to share its initiatives and achievements with senior officials, policymakers, and scientific communities.

F. **ECOSF Outreach through Website, Facebook Page and Twitter/X**: The ECOSF maintains and generates extensive online presence through its website and various social media tools i.e., Facebook, Twitter; and the E-newsletter, which is shared via emails to disseminate the vital information and updates related to various opportunities and activities undertaken by the Foundation to promote Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO region.

The information about all the ECOSF activities i.e.; meetings, conferences, programs, updates etc. are regularly uploaded on its website (www.ecosf.org), FB Page (www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation) & Twitter/X (@ECO4science).

ECOSF is partner/collaborator of International Organizations, Forums and Institutions; hence, many scientific invitations and announcements are received and are regularly shared with Member Countries and uploaded on the website under the tab of "Opportunities" and on the Facebook. In addition to the social media presence and its website updates, the Foundation strives to take full advantage of promoting STI through print media channels as well.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1204

Priority: Normal
Date: 21/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Note Verbal No. E-ERBM-104.01.04-10820 dated 15th October 2026 received from the ECO Trade and Development Bank sharing the Annual Report of the Bank for 2025.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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ECO Trade and Development Bank

ECO Trade and Development Bank
Vice President Finance (VPF)
16/10/2026 E-ERBM-104.01.04-10820

Number : E-ERBM-104.01.04-10820 Date: 15.10.2026
Subject : ETDB Annual Report For The 30Th ECO COM Meeting

TO: Economic Cooperation Organization Secretariat

The ECO Trade and Development Bank presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and, with reference to the Secretariat's Note No. IR/2026/1160 dated 13 October 2026 regarding the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), to be held on 15-16 November 2026 in Islamabad, Pakistan, has the honour to enclose herewith the Annual Report of the Bank for 2025 for the Secretariat's kind perusal.

The ECO Trade and Development Bank avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: 2025 ETDB Annual Report

This document has been signed with a secure electronic signature.

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ECO Trade and Development Bank

Annual Report

2025

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Board of Governors

As of 31 December 2025

Chairman, Board of Governors (Appointed 11 July 2025 for one year): Governor of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Governor: Mr. Noor Ahmad Agha, Acting Governor, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Alternate Governor: Mr. Sadequllah Khalid, First Deputy Governor, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Republic of Azerbaijan

Governor: Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan

Alternate Governor: Mr. Azer Bayramov, Deputy Minister of Finance, Republic of Azerbaijan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Governor: Mr. Asghar Abolhasani, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Alternate Governor: Mr. Mehdi Pourazadi, Director of International Cooperation Department, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Kyrgyz Republic

Governor: H.E Mr. Bakyt Sydykov, Minister of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyz Republic

Alternate Governor: H.E. Mr. Almaz Baketaev, Minister of Finance of Kyrgyz Republic

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Governor: Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan

Alternate Governor: Mr. Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary, Finance Division, Government of Pakistan

Republic of Türkiye

Governor: Mr. Osman Çelik, Deputy Minister of Treasury and Finance, Republic of Türkiye

Alternate Governor: Mr. Kerem Dönmez, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Republic of Türkiye

Board of Directors

As of 31 December 2025

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Director: Mr. Ahmad Jawad Sadad, Director General, Monetary Policy Dept., Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Alternate Director: Mr. Mohammad Hamid Jabbar, Deputy Director General, Monetary Policy Dept., Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Republic of Azerbaijan

Director: Ms. Könül Aliyeva, Deputy Director, Department on Cooperation with IFI's and Investment Funds, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Alternate Director: Mr. Famil Ismayilov, Deputy Head, International Relations Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Director: Mr. Farshad Mohammadpour, Vice Governor for Banking Supervision, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Alternate Director: Mr. Arash Shahraeeni, Director of International Finance Department, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Kyrgyz Republic

Director: Mr. Mederbek Tumanov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyz Republic

Alternate Director: Mr. Tologon Zhamangulov, Head of Division for Interaction with International Financial Institutions of the International Financing, Green Economy, and Tourism Department

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Director: Ms. Nasheeta Mohsin, Special Secretary Finance, Finance Division, Government of Pakistan

Alternate Director: Mr. Nadeem Ahsan, Joint Secretary (EF-P) Finance Division, Government of Pakistan

Republic of Türkiye

Director: Ms. Bengü Aytekin, Deputy General Director of Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye

Management Committee

As of 31 December 2025

- Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan, President & Chairman of the Board of Directors
- Mr. Ahmet Tutal, Vice President (Credits)
- Mr. Aamir Nazir Gondal, Vice President (Finance)

Audit Committee

As of 31 December 2025

- Mr. Akif Bülent Boyacıoğlu,
  Vice Chairman of Board of Treasury Controllers,
  Ministry of Treasury and Finance of Republic of Türkiye

- Ms. Mariam Kayani
  Joint Secretary Budget III,
  Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Government of Pakistan

- Mr. Soheyl Aeen,
  Expert, International Banking Relations Department,
  International Relations Deputy,
  Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

To the Board of Governors

H.E The Chairman,
Board of Governors of the
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Trade and Development Bank

Dear Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with Article 26 (2) of the Agreement Establishing the ECO Trade and Development Bank and Section 10 of its By-Laws, I have the honour to submit for the kind attention of the esteemed Board of Governors, the Bank's Annual Report for 2025 as endorsed by the Board of Directors. The report covers the activities of the Bank including audited financial statements for 2025.

Please accept, Mr. Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration

Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan,
Chairman of the Board of Directors
President
ECO Trade and Development Bank

INTRODUCTION

Vision

To become the financial pillar of economic cooperation among ECO member states by fostering sustainable economic development and integration

Mission

- Promote and facilitate private and public sector investment, cooperation, development and job creation in member states through joint programs
- Foster the growth of intra-regional trade
- Contribute to the economic and social development for the welfare of the people in member states
- Promote good governance and environment consciousness in all efforts and projects

Core values

- Development orientation
- Efficiency & Flexibility
- Transparency & Accountability
- Innovation
- Teamwork
- Additionality
- Effective Corporate Governance
- Sustainability

Establishment

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) was established by a decision of the Council of Ministers of ECO member states as a multilateral development bank (MDB) with the mandate to initiate, promote, and provide financial facilities to support the expansion of intra-regional trade and the acceleration of economic development. The Bank operates under prudent policies, rules, and regulations consistent with international standards applied by comparable multilateral development institutions.

The Articles of Agreement establishing the Bank entered into force on 3 August 2005 following parliamentary approvals by the founding members, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye. The Articles of Agreement were subsequently registered with the United Nations under registration number 44939 on 19 May 2008.

The Headquarters Agreement of the Bank was ratified by the Republic of Türkiye in July 2007 and the Bank started its credit operations as of December 2008. The Headquarter of the Bank is located in Istanbul (Türkiye) and representative offices are in Karachi (Pakistan) and Tehran (Iran). The Bank is staffed with 29 employees from member states as end of December 2025.

The main functions and activities of the Bank inter alia include:

- Financing development projects and intra-regional trade activities
- Supporting private and public sector investments
- Cooperating with national and international financial institutions
- Mobilizing resources and providing other banking services as may be necessary for the advancement of its purposes

The Bank's core mission is to promote sustainable economic growth across the ECO region. In this regard, it seeks to strengthen its role as a provider of development finance and related services, while remaining responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of its member countries. The Bank is also committed to contributing to the reduction of perceived risks associated with individual member states and the region as a whole, thereby fostering deeper regional cooperation and integration. Its financial services are designed to position the Bank as a reliable partner in advancing economic development across its membership.

The Bank offers tailored financial solutions, including project finance, corporate lending, and trade finance, enabling clients to benefit from appropriate and market-relevant financing structures. It focuses on supporting development-oriented programmes and projects under reasonable costs and favourable repayment terms. All transactions are subject to approval by the Board of Directors and guided by their developmental impact.

Loan tenors typically extend up to 10 years, with longer maturities considered in exceptional cases. Financing decisions are based on the developmental merit of each project and its contribution to member countries. Some operations may have a regional dimension, benefiting multiple member states and supporting economic integration. Eligible beneficiaries include both public and private sector entities operating within member countries. The Bank may finance up to 50 per cent of total project costs, while

corporate and trade finance operations may cover up to 100 per cent of funding requirements, subject to internal exposure limits.

All operations must comply with the criteria outlined in the Negative List of Products Policy, anti-money laundering regulations, and the Bank's procurement and environmental policies. The main products and services offered by the Bank include, inter alia:

- Project Finance
- Corporate Finance
- Trade Finance
- M-SMEs Finance
- Equity Investments
- Co-financing and Syndication
- Guarantees
- Soft Loans
- Technical & Advisory Services

The primary objective of the ETDB is to finance programs and projects across a broad spectrum of socio-economic activities aligned with national development plans. Guided by its Business Plan and country-specific partnership strategies, the Bank primarily focuses on the following sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Energy
- Trade
- Industry
- Infrastructure
- Finance
- Tourism
- Transport and logistics
- Agriculture and food production

Operational Principles

The Bank conducts its operations in accordance with its Operation Cycle Policy and the guiding principles established by the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors. All operations are required to be technically, economically, financially, legally, and environmentally sound, compliant with applicable Bank policies, and consistent with an acceptable level of risk. The preservation of financial viability remains fundamental to ensuring that the Bank fulfils its mandate in a sustainable manner without compromising its capital base.

In the implementation of its activities, the Bank seeks to ensure compliance, to the greatest extent possible, with applicable procurement regulations, the national laws of its member states, and relevant international conventions, treaties, and agreements, including those restricting or prohibiting the financing of activities involving goods and services that may pose risks to human health, public safety, biodiversity, or the environment.

In line with its commitment to responsible financing, the Bank maintains a Negative List of Products Policy, including an Environmental Exclusion List, which defines goods and services excluded from financing. These include, inter alia, weaponry and ammunition, military-related goods, tobacco, alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, wildlife products, and radioactive materials, including radioactive waste.

All transactions are subject to continuous monitoring to ensure strict adherence to internal policies and external regulatory requirements, including Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), and Know Your

Customer (KYC) standards. Through these frameworks, the Bank seeks to uphold ethical, transparent, and responsible business practices, while safeguarding value for its shareholders and stakeholders.

Governance Structure

The Bank is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective checks and balances across all its activities. As a multilateral development institution, it operates independently of national supervisory authorities. Its governance framework, as defined in the Articles of Agreement, is structured around clearly delineated responsibilities of the Board of Governors, the Board of Directors, and Management. The governance principles adopted by the Board of Governors are aligned with best practices applied by peer multilateral development institutions.

In line with its Corporate Governance Policy, the Bank places strong emphasis on transparency, accountability, and integrity in all operations. The Corporate Governance Policy, Code of Conduct, and Staff Regulations collectively establish the principles governing institutional conduct and operational practices. A key feature of this framework is the clear separation of responsibilities between governing bodies and Management, supported by structured reporting lines that ensure effective oversight and execution of mandates.

The Management Committee, together with key operational committees such as the Credit Committee and the Asset and Liability Committee (ALCO), supports the implementation of policies and contributes to effective risk management and operational efficiency. This governance framework is reinforced through internal and external audit functions and comprehensive financial and management reporting systems. The Audit Committee operates under a defined mandate approved by the Board of Governors, providing independent oversight and advisory support in safeguarding the Bank's assets, strengthening internal controls, and ensuring effective risk governance.

The Bank prepares its financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and maintains a comprehensive Management Information System to support reporting to the Board of Directors on operational, investment, and financial performance. Reporting practices are designed to ensure transparency and provide relevant, timely, and accurate information on the Bank's risk profile and operational outcomes, and continue to evolve in line with international best practices.

The Board of Governors (BoGs)

All powers of the Bank are vested in the BoGs, which consists of one governor and one alternate governor appointed by each member country, who are mostly high dignitaries/senior officials (Ministers/Governors of Central Banks) of the member states. With the exception of powers specifically reserved to it under the Articles of Agreement of the Bank including increasing the Bank's capital, admitting new members, appointing the President of the Bank, appointing external auditors for the audit of its accounts, approval of the Bank's financial accounts, allocation of net profit, and interpretation and amendment of the Articles of Agreement, etc.; the BoGs has delegated its other powers to the Board of Directors, whose members are also

appointed by each member state. The BoGs hold an annual meeting and such other meetings deemed necessary.

The Board of Directors (BoDs)

The BoDs is composed of representatives of the member states and responsible for the direction of the Bank's general operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the BoGs. The powers of the BoDs inter alia include the following:

i. take decisions concerning the business of the Bank and its operations in conformity with the general directions of BoGs;
ii. submit the accounts for each financial year for the approval of the BoGs at each annual meeting; and
iii. approve the budget of the Bank;
iv. propose to the BoGs any amendment to the Articles of Agreement
v. establish such branches, subsidiaries and representative offices as may be necessary or appropriate to conduct the business of the Bank

The Directors hold office for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed. The BoDs are non-resident and meet as often as the business of the Bank may require but not less than six times a year.

The President

The legal representative and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank is the President. The President is appointed by the BoGs for a four (4) year term and also serves as the Chairman of the BoDs. The President is responsible for management of the business of the Bank in accordance with the Bank's rules and regulations and in line with the directives of the BoGs and the BoDs.

The Management Committee

The Committee is composed of the President, who serves as Chairman, and the Vice Presidents. It is mandated to consider all matters related to the Bank's strategy, structure, operations, risk management, and performance, in accordance with the directives of the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors.

Capital Structure

The unit of account of the Bank is ECO Unit (EU). Each EU is equivalent to one Special Drawing Right (SDR) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The initial authorized capital of the Bank was SDR 1 billion and paid-in capital was SDR 300 million, which was equally paid-in by Türkiye, Pakistan and Iran. The membership and capital base of the Bank was expanded as the other ECO member states joined the Bank. In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with paid-in capital contribution of SDR 15 million, the Republic of Azerbaijan with SDR 9.75 million paid-in capital contribution and the Kyrgyz Republic with paid-in capital contribution of SDR 2 million became the new members of the Bank. Accordingly, the authorized capital of the Bank increased to SDR 1,089,100 thousand and the size of the paid-in capital amounted to SDR 326,750 thousand. The remaining four ECO member states namely Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are also expected to become the member of the Bank soon.

As common feature of the MDB's capital structure, the ETDB has a share of its capital that is callable; an unconditional and full- faith obligation of each member country to provide additional capital whenever required. Out of the said authorized capital SDR 762,350 thousand may become payable, upon a unanimous decision of the Board of

Governors. Upon completion of the subscriptions by the new members, Türkiye, Iran and Pakistan continued to be largest shareholders of the Bank with 30.60 percent stake each, followed by Afghanistan with 4.59 percent, Azerbaijan with 2.98 percent and Kyrgyzstan with 0.61 percent. As of 31 December 2025, the share capital structure of the Bank showing the number of shares, the amount subscribed by each member, including their respective callable and payable as well as the amount paid-in is as follows:

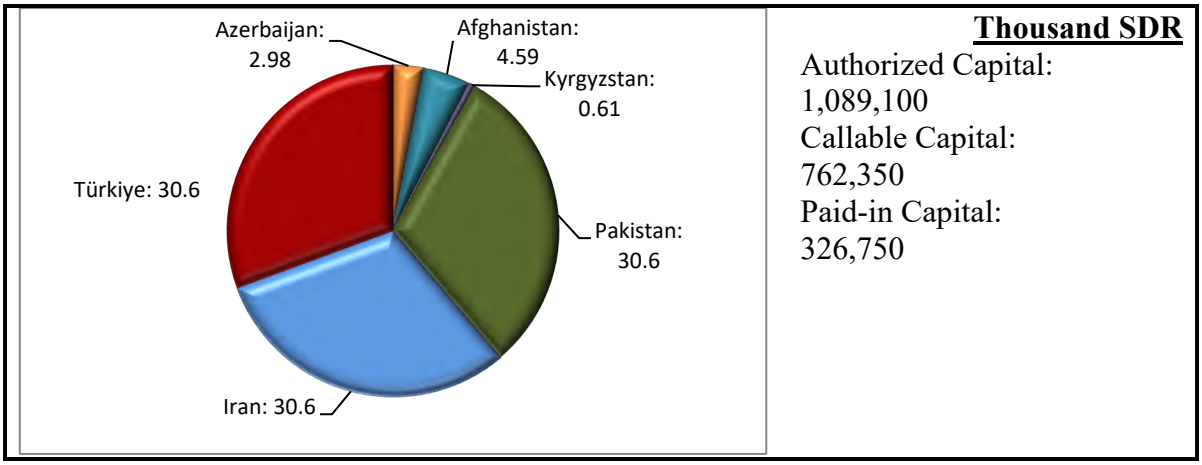
Table-1: Share capital structure of the Bank (thousands, SDR)

	Shares	Subscribed	Callable	Payable	Paid-in
Islamic Republic of Iran (*)	3,333	333,333	233,333	-	100,000
Islamic Republic of Pakistan (*)	3,333	333,333	233,333	-	100,000
Republic of Türkiye (*)	3,333	333,333	233,333	-	100,000
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	500	50,000	35,000	-	15,000
Republic of Azerbaijan	325	32,500	22,750	-	9,750
Kyrgyz Republic	66	6,600	4,600	-	2,000
Total	**10,891**	**1,089,100**	**762,350**	**-**	**326,750**

(*) Total number of shares, subscribed capital and callable capital of the three founding members are equal and 10,000; SDR 1,000,000 thousand and SDR 700,000 thousand, respectively.

Compared to the previous year, the Bank's total equity grew by 5.8%, reaching SDR 506,662 thousand by the end of 2025. This increase includes SDR 27,705 thousand from retained earnings for the year. Within total equity, reserves and retained earnings amounted to SDR 179,912 thousand, of which SDR 152,207 thousand were reserves. Equity represents approximately 94% of the total balance sheet, underscoring the Bank's strong capitalization, financial resilience, and capacity to support its development mandate.

Figure 1: Shareholder Structure (percent)



According to the Articles of Agreement establishing the Bank, membership is open to all ECO member states. The current membership of the ETDB comprises six countries—Türkiye, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan—representing the majority of ECO member states. The Bank's long-term objective is to achieve full membership coverage across the ECO region, enabling all member states to benefit from its financial and developmental activities. The accession of new members is expected to further strengthen the Bank's regional presence, enhance its value proposition, increase institutional diversity, and expand its capital base to support the growth of its operations.

While the Bank's financial resources remain modest compared to other multilateral development banks and certain commercial financial institutions in the region, potential capital increases provide a clear pathway for accelerated institutional growth. Strategic capital enhancements, aligned with operational priorities and supported by broader membership participation, are expected to significantly strengthen the Bank's capacity to deliver on its development mandate.

The Bank remains committed to the efficient and effective use of its resources, with a focus on optimizing asset allocation across member states in line with its mandate and strategic objectives. With strengthened capital prospects and an expanding operational footprint, the Bank is well positioned to further enhance its contribution to the sustainable development of its member countries in the coming period.

President's Message

In 2025, the global economy expanded at a moderate pace but remained below its long-term potential. This reflected persistent inflationary pressures, disruptions in trade and supply chains, tighter financial conditions, and ongoing geopolitical tensions that contributed to volatility in energy markets. Furthermore, rising trade fragmentation, tariff uncertainties, and tight monetary conditions globally placed significant pressure on emerging markets. According to the latest report of IMF, the global GDP growth is estimated at 3.4 percent in 2025, with a gradual moderation to around 3.0 percent in 2026.

These global headwinds have directly affected the economies of the ECO region, leading to a moderation in economic growth across member states. The region experienced a slowdown in 2025, with real GDP growth easing to 3.0 percent from 3.7 percent in the previous year. Looking ahead, evolving geopolitical tensions remain a key source of uncertainty, with potential implications for regional stability and economic conditions.

The new dynamics are reshaping the landscape of development finance, increasing demand for resilience, adaptability, and stronger institutions. Yet beneath these aggregate trends lies a more important story. The ECO region is characterised by strong demographics, abundant natural resources, and growing entrepreneurship. It offers significant investment potential. Advancing regional cooperation will require stronger trade and transport links, deeper financial integration, and harmonised regulatory frameworks. Improved digital and energy connectivity, along with stronger institutional cooperation, will also be essential.

In this context, the Bank's role as a catalyst for regional integration, trade facilitation, and resource mobilisation has become increasingly important. Despite a challenging operating environment, the Bank made steady progress in 2025, delivering strong financial and operational results while continuing to enhance the development impact of its operations.

The total loan disbursements reached a record SDR 228 million, and the outstanding loan portfolio expanded to SDR 371 million, both the highest levels in the Bank's history. Importantly, this performance was achieved while maintaining a zero non-performing loan portfolio, underscoring disciplined risk management and the continued strength and quality of our operations. We have focused on sustaining operational momentum across all core business segments, including SME financing, trade finance, corporate and project finance.

Our financial performance remained solid, with net profit of SDR 27.7 million, exceeding the budget target by 33 percent. This reflects the Bank's ability to generate sustainable earnings while maintaining a prudent risk profile and absorbing external market pressures. These results reflect an institution that has remained steady and resilient, delivering strong results while remaining firmly anchored in its development mandate.

Building on strong financial performance, 2025 was marked by several strategic milestones. The Bank advanced its geographic and operational diversification with its first transaction in the Kyrgyz Republic through a sovereign bond investment and the launch of its first operation in Afghanistan through a technical assistance programme. Institutional capacity continued to be strengthened through staff development, enhanced management systems, and digital transformation, supporting greater efficiency and organisational resilience. Clear objective-setting and performance management frameworks also strengthened organisational effectiveness and sharpened the Bank's focus on results.

Looking ahead, mobilising resources on competitive and favourable terms remains a key strategic priority, supporting the Bank's development impact and long-term financial sustainability. Reflecting its strong capital buffers, satisfactory liquidity, and sound asset quality, the Bank maintains a 'BB' global foreign currency rating. In 2025, we have also secured an investment-grade "AAA (tr)" national rating, strengthening access to local currency funding.

The Bank will continue to implement its Business Plan (2023–2027) with confidence and institutional clarity. We remain focused on expanding our development impact while staying vigilant to external uncertainties and evolving challenges. Expanding membership and implementing a capital increase remain strategic priorities to strengthen the Bank's capacity and deepen its regional impact. The accession of the remaining ECO member countries would further enhance regional integration and shared prosperity. We stand ready to support their accession process.

I would like to conclude by emphasising that none of these achievements would have been possible without the continued support and trust of our member states. I am deeply grateful to the esteemed members of our Board of Governors and the Board of Directors for their continued engagement, strategic guidance, and steadfast support, which remain central to the Bank's progress. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our Management Committee members, Audit Committee members, and staff for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment throughout the year.

The Bank is uniquely positioned to translate bold ambitions into tangible outcomes, where our support to sustainable growth and prosperity shall be within reach for all. I remain confident that our shared commitment to this mission will enable us to respond more effectively to the evolving development priorities of our member countries.

Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan
President

Executive Summary

The ETDB is a regional multilateral development bank (MDB) that commenced its credit operations in December 2008. Its mandate is to promote socio-economic development and strengthen intra-regional trade and economic cooperation among ECO member states. The Bank's vision is to serve as the financial pillar of regional economic integration within the ECO region. Headquartered in Istanbul, Türkiye, the Bank employs 29 staff from member countries. The Representative Offices in Tehran (Iran) and Karachi (Pakistan) play a key role in identifying, coordinating, and monitoring operations. They also facilitate engagement with national authorities, financial institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders.

As of 31 December 2025, total equity of the Bank stood at SDR 507 million. The Bank operates in line with internationally accepted governance and financial standards and prudent policies broadly aligned with those of peer multilateral development institutions. The Bank pursues sustainable and realistic business objectives aligned with its mandate, underpinned by prudent resource management. It provides medium- and long-term financing to public and private sector clients on competitive terms, complementing commercial financing. Its product range includes corporate lending, M-SME financing programmes, trade finance facilities, and project and structured finance operations across member countries.

In December 2025, the Bank marked its seventeenth anniversary. Over this period, accumulated institutional experience and adherence to internationally accepted practices have enhanced its capacity to fulfil its mandate while maintaining financial sustainability. It obtained its first external credit rating of 'BB' in 2024 and achieved a 'AAA' national credit rating in 2025. These milestones enhance the Bank's financial and operational resilience and further reinforce its credibility in capital markets. Sustained improvements in governance, capital base, financial management, and risk management practices are expected to support continued progress in its credit profile and broaden access to diversified funding sources on competitive terms.

Looking ahead, the Bank aims to further diversify its range of instruments, including green and social bonds, guarantees, local currency financing, equity investments, special funds, and buyer's credit facilities. Alongside this, ESG principles are being further embedded across operations to enhance development impact and support sustainable growth across member countries.

The global economy in 2025 continued to expand at a moderate and uneven pace, amid easing inflationary pressures, persistent geopolitical tensions, and structural constraints affecting investment, trade, and long-term growth. Global GDP growth remained broadly stable at around 3.4 percent. Growth conditions were influenced by elevated trade tensions, higher real interest rates, industrial policy distortions, and the increasing costs of geoeconomic fragmentation and geopolitical conflicts, including the ongoing Russia–Ukraine war.

In the ECO region, the post-pandemic recovery moderated over recent years, with growth slowing in line with global developments. Real GDP growth eased to 3.0 percent in 2025 from 3.7 percent in the previous year, reflecting the impact of geopolitical tensions, tighter financial conditions, and trade-related distortions.

The region's nominal GDP reached USD 3.04 trillion in 2025, up from USD 2.7 trillion a year earlier, accounting for 2.6 percent of global output. Average nominal GDP per capita increased to USD 5,576 from USD 5,130, while PPP-based GDP per capita rose to USD 17,256 from USD 16,542, indicating gradual improvements in living standards.

Against this backdrop, global structural shifts continue to shape growth prospects and policy priorities in the ECO region. Geopolitical fragmentation, trade disruptions, and supply chain vulnerabilities remain key constraints to sustainable development. At the same time, digital transformation, climate transition, and geoeconomic realignment are reshaping global investment patterns. In this context, productivity growth remains critical for long-term development. This requires stronger institutions, human capital, and innovation capacity. Artificial intelligence and digital technologies present significant opportunities. ECO countries will need to continue strengthening digital infrastructure, skills development, and regulatory frameworks to ensure safe and inclusive adoption.

The Bank's Fourth Five-Year Business Plan (2023–2027), approved by the Board of Governors in June 2023, provides a results-oriented framework to strengthen institutional effectiveness. Within this framework, the Bank continues to enhance institutional capacity and respond effectively to financing needs across sectors. The Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) documents, approved by the Board of Directors in October 2025, serve as the Bank's key strategic planning tool at the country level. They provide a structured basis for identifying and guiding investment opportunities.

In 2025, the Bank advanced its mandate of supporting sustainable development across member countries while ensuring efficient use of resources. Total loan disbursements reached SDR 228 million, compared to SDR 186 million in the previous year, reflecting sustained support for development and trade-related operations.

The outstanding loan portfolio reached SDR 371 million, exceeding the Business Plan target of SDR 339 million. Total assets stood at SDR 536 million, above the projection of SDR 515 million, representing a 5.5 percent increase year-on-year. The Bank maintained a zero non-performing loan (NPL) portfolio in 2025, while sustaining a strong development focus. Net profit for the year ended 31 December 2025 amounted to SDR 27,705 thousand, remaining above the Business Plan target of SDR 21 million despite a moderate decline compared to the previous year. Overall, performance reflects effective management and operational efficiency in a challenging external environment. In line with the objectives set out in the current Business Plan and Country Strategy Reports, the Bank's key achievements are summarized as follows:

a. Since the commencement of its credit operations in 2008, the Bank has disbursed SDR 2.3 billion in financing to its member countries as of end-December 2025. The Bank played a key role in supporting the development of projects across wind and solar energy, metro systems, healthcare, education, and food and agricultural infrastructure. Consistent with its mandate to foster

intra-regional trade, resources have been directed to trade finance activities, underscoring the Bank's continued support for trade expansion and regional economic integration.

b. Asset quality remained sound throughout 2025, supported by continued diversification of the loan portfolio across products, countries, and sectors. The weighted average internal credit rating of the outstanding portfolio stood at 2.3, compared to 2.1 in 2024, reflecting a stable, low-risk profile on a 1–10 scale. The Bank maintained a zero non-performing loan (NPL) portfolio, underscoring the effectiveness of its credit risk management framework. Strong financial, social, and environmental safeguards remained embedded across all operations.

c. The outstanding loan portfolio increased to SDR 371 million as of end-2025, representing an increase of 18 percent over the previous year and the highest level in the Bank's history.

d. In 2025, total loan disbursements increased to SDR 228 million, compared to SDR 186 million in the previous year, reflecting the Bank's continued support for development and trade-related activities across the region. This represented the strongest annual lending performance since the Bank commenced operations.

e. The Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) Support Program and the Trade Finance Facility, implemented through selected financial intermediaries, continued to deliver positive development outcomes. Trade finance operations remained focused on strengthening intra-regional trade among ECO member countries. Sub-borrower SMEs were active in key sectors including agriculture, retail trade, construction, food, energy, transportation, and textiles, contributing to economic activity, job creation, and inclusive growth across the region. The Bank is making continuous efforts to align its operations with ESG principles and strengthen its development impact across member states.

f. Operations in Azerbaijan were expanded, including the Bank's first real sector financing and the onboarding of new financial institutions. The Bank also completed its first transaction in Kyrgyz Republic through a sovereign bond investment and launched its first operation in Afghanistan through a technical assistance programme.

g. The Bank remained responsive to natural disasters across member states, including floods, droughts, and earthquakes, by extending timely soft loan support to facilitate recovery and rehabilitation efforts. These interventions are consistent with the Bank's mandate to support sustainable development and reinforce resilience in the region.

h. Risk management architecture was further strengthened through refinement of the internal credit rating system and continuous enhancement of compliance and control processes, supporting more robust risk assessment and improved decision-making across operations.

i. As of 31 December 2025, the Bank maintained a high-quality credit portfolio, with all financial assets classified under Stage 1, except for one exposure classified under Stage 2. During the year, the Bank recorded a net reversal of expected credit loss (ECL) allowances of EUR 1,718 thousand, primarily reflecting updates to its provisioning model and a reassessment of credit risk parameters.

j. Total assets increased to SDR 536 million at the end of 2025, compared to SDR 508 million in 2024, while the share of the banking portfolio in total assets rose from 62 percent to 69 percent, reflecting the continued expansion of development-oriented operations.

k. The Bank reported a net profit of SDR 27,705 thousand for the year ended 31 December 2025, exceeding the budget by 33 percent and achieving the second-highest annual profit in its history. This strong result reflected solid lending and treasury performance, a net impairment gain, and effective cost control measures.

l. Total reserves and retained earnings increased to SDR 180 million at the end of 2025, compared to SDR 152 million at the end of 2024.

m. As of 31 December 2025, Return on Assets (RoA) stood at 5.3 percent and Return on Equity (RoE) at 5.6 percent, indicating sound financial sustainability and efficient use of capital in support of the Bank's development mandate.

n. Treasury operations supported efficient balance sheet management through active liquidity management, prudent investment of surplus funds, and effective mitigation of market risks, while ensuring adequate liquidity buffers for operational needs.

o. The Bank obtained its first-ever external credit rating of 'BB' in 2024 from Capital Intelligence Ratings, which was reaffirmed in 2025, reflecting strong capitalisation, prudent risk management, and continued financial resilience. The Bank is carefully assessing the optimal timing to issue debt instruments, with particular focus on green and social bonds.

p. In 2025, the Bank obtained a 'AAA' national scale credit rating from JCR Eurasia Rating—the highest on the national scale—thereby reinforcing its credit profile and strengthening its capacity to access cost-effective funding in domestic currency markets.

q. The successful accession of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan marked an important milestone in the Bank's evolution, increasing membership to majority of ECO member states. Efforts also continued to engage the remaining ECO countries—Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—with a view to achieving broader regional participation and advancing the Bank's long-term vision as the financial institution of the ECO region.

r. The Bank continued to advance its digital transformation agenda in 2025 through the strengthening of its IT infrastructure. The Electronic Document

Management System (EDMS) became fully operational, supporting a paperless environment and improving document control, archiving, and workflow processes, while the Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) system enhanced budgeting, forecasting, and performance monitoring. Upgrades to cybersecurity systems and continued improvements to core banking platforms further strengthened operational resilience and supported the Bank's digital transformation objectives.

s. The Bank places strong emphasis on human capital development as a key driver of institutional effectiveness. In 2025, it further advanced competency-based recruitment and performance management systems aligned with international best practices. In parallel, training programs were delivered in cooperation with the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Pakistan, strengthening staff competencies and productivity and reinforcing continuous professional development.

t. Project supervision, monitoring, and post-evaluation frameworks were further strengthened through regular reporting on credit portfolio performance and systematic capture of lessons learned. These activities enhanced risk mitigation at the transaction level and supported the continued strong quality of the loan portfolio.

u. Active dialogue with multilateral development banks, national financial institutions, and peer institutions was maintained to support co-financing opportunities, knowledge sharing, and strengthened institutional cooperation.

v. The internal regulatory framework was further reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with operational needs, compliance requirements, and international best practices, while strengthening governance and policy effectiveness.

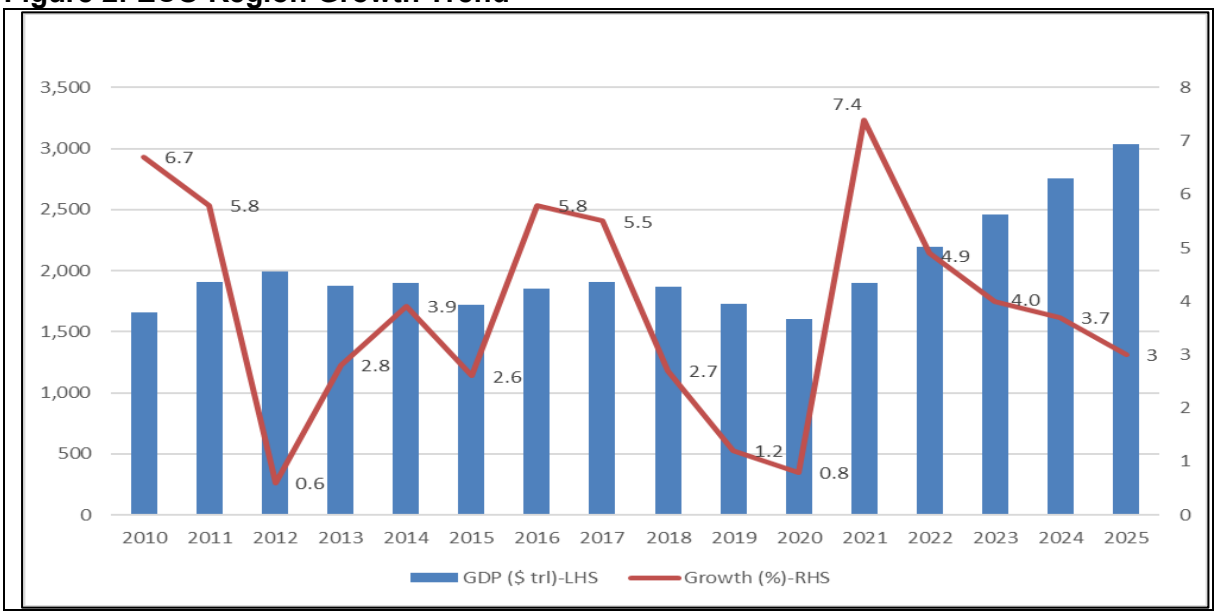
In a challenging global environment marked by persistent structural headwinds, the Bank sustained strong operational and institutional performance in 2025. This reflects the strength of its experienced human capital, supported by robust governance, strengthened internal controls and risk management. These foundations underpin the Bank's ability to scale operations, enhance development effectiveness, and deepen its contribution to sustainable growth and regional integration in the period ahead.

Economic Overview

According to the latest estimates by the IMF, global GDP growth in 2025 was flat at 3.4%. The sluggish global growth environment is primarily attributed to escalating trade tensions, elevated real interest rates, industrial policy distortions, and the compounding structural costs of geo-economic fragmentation and ongoing geopolitical conflicts, notably the Russia-Ukraine war.

The post-pandemic growth spurt across the ECO region observed in 2021 failed to gain a solid footing with growth faltering over the last few years. ECO region, similar to the global economy, witnessed slowdown in economic activity in 2025 with real GDP growth moderating to 3% down from 3.7% last year. The slowdown in growth reflected the effects of geo-political tensions, tightening of financial conditions and impact of trade distortions (Figure 2). A significant contraction in Iran, which commands a 12.2% share of ECO's total output, further dragged down overall regional growth.

Figure 2: ECO Region-Growth Trend



Source: ETDB staff estimates

Most of the Central Asian member economies showed resilient growth in 2025, capitalizing on trade redirection, strong remittance inflows, and robust consumption demand with the region witnessing significant economic expansion. Azerbaijan, stood out as an exception with growth slowing to 1.4% in 2025 due to structural contraction in hydrocarbon sector, high base effect of non-oil economy and tightening fiscal and monetary stance.

Pakistan’s economy grew by 3.1% in 2025, building on the momentum from last year growth of 2.4%. Growth was supported by robust growth in services sector and noticeable recovery in the industrial sector. The growth in agricultural slowed down significantly pulled down by broad-based decline in production of important crops amid unfavorable weather conditions.

Türkiye's economy witnessed a recovery in 2025 with growth climbing to 3.6% from 3.3% in the previous year. Despite tight financial conditions, private consumption rebounded in second-half and grew 4.1% in 2025, while investment growth accelerated

to 7%. The acceleration in investment growth was primarily driven by construction and reconstruction activity, with a massive portion tied directly to public and multilateral recovery efforts in the earthquake-devastated regions. The construction sector valued added grew by 10.8% in 2025.

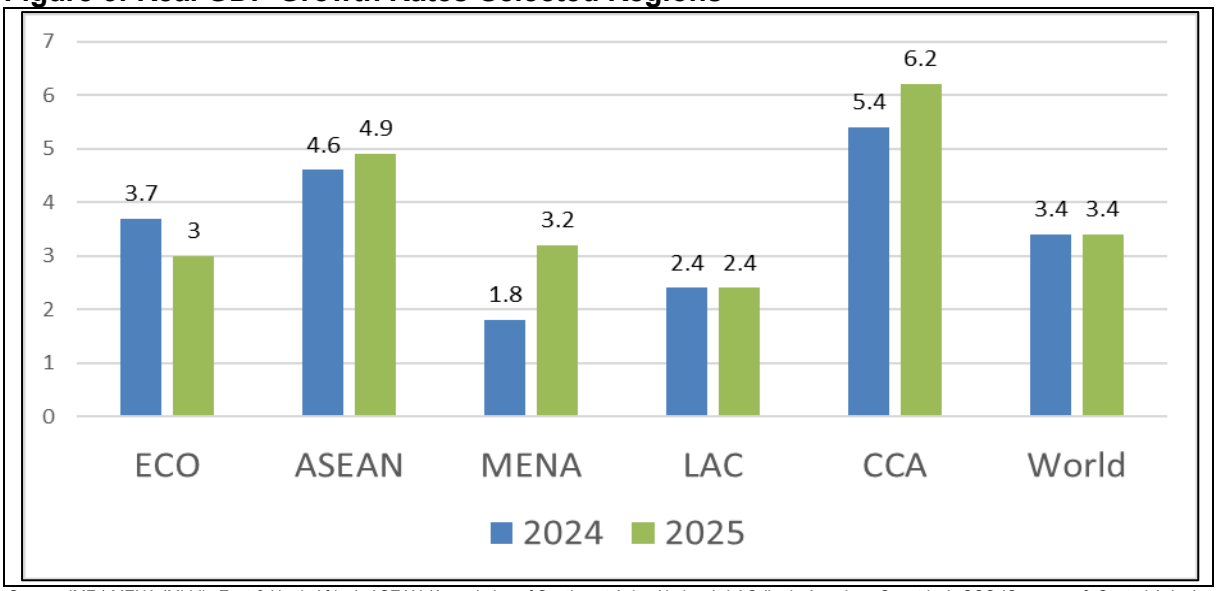
Iranian economy recorded a significant slowdown in economic activity with GDP estimated to have contracted by 1.5% in 2025 compared to 3.7% growth print last year due to disruption in economic activity attributed to the Twelve-Day War. The disruption adversely impacted the industrial and agriculture production due to energy and water shortages. Furthermore, trade disruptions due to tensions in Strait of Hormuz, coupled with country-wide internet and telecommunication blackout is estimated to have significantly constrained economic activity.

ECO region's nominal GDP stood at $3.04 trillion in 2025 compared to $2.7 trillion recorded in the previous year, registering a growth of 12.6%. The nominal GDP was equivalent to 2.6% of the global output. A better gauge of the region's output trends is captured by observing the trend in GDP measured in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP). GDP (PPP-based) in 2025 stood at $9.4 trillion compared to $8.8 trillion last year which translates to a growth print of 6.8% in current PPP terms.

Living standards as measured by average nominal GDP per capita income metric stood at an estimated $5,576 for the ECO region in 2025, rising from $5,130 recorded last year. A more nuanced approach is to look at GDP per capita measured on PPP-basis to grasp a better appreciation of the change in living standards in the region. Estimated GDP per capita (PPP-based) for the ECO region in 2025 stood at $17,256 compared to $16,542 last year which amounted to a growth rate of 4.3%.

ECO region's economic performance was comparable to or outperformed other regional blocks in 2025 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Real GDP Growth Rates-Selected Regions*



Source: IMF * MENA (Middle East & North Africa), ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), LAC (Latin American Countries), CCC (Caucasus & Central Asian)

Developments in headline inflation varied across the member countries with the ECO region as a whole registering moderation in inflation which fell to 26.7% in 2025 compared to 35.8% print last year (Table 2). Inflation fell amid efforts by central banks in the region to hike interest rates to curb inflation, coupled with unwinding of regional

and global supply shocks. Inflation fell in all countries in the region except Iran, which witnessed an increase in inflation which hit 50.9% up from 32.6% last year.

In 2025, the government fiscal balances across the ECO region showed a mixed picture, with some member countries facing widening deficits, others managing to reduce their fiscal shortfalls, and a few experiencing a decline in their fiscal surpluses. Fiscal deficit widened in Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan amid rise in government spending, interest rates, and faltering economic activity. Fiscal deficit fell in Pakistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan on account of fiscal consolidation, and enhanced revenues mobilization. Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan swung into a deficit, reversing the fiscal surplus maintained over the last year. The regional fiscal deficit to GDP ratio in 2025 narrowed to 3.2% from 3.9% last year (Table 2).

In 2025, ECO region's overall current account (CA) balance widened to a deficit of $37.3 billion down from $9.7 billion last year, equivalent to 1.2% of GDP compared to 0.4% last year (Table 2). Pakistan's CA saw a turnaround with deficit switching to surplus after many years. Uzbekistan recorded a moderate narrowing in deficit due to structural improvements in exports and observed resilience in remittance inflows. Current account deficit across the region deteriorated due to trade disruptions, a fall in remittances, strong domestic demand, and moderation in global economic output.

In the table listed below key economic indicators of the ECO region and member countries for 2025 are presented.

Table 2: Key Economic Indicators by ECO Region and Member Countries-2025

Country	Real GDP Growth (%)	Average consumer Inflation(%)	Central Gov. Budget Balance/GDP (%)	Current Account Balance/GDP (%)
Afghanistan	3	2.9	-0.9	-40.1
Azerbaijan	1.4	5.6	2.5	5.5
Iran	-1.5	50.9	-5.6	0.6
Kazakhstan	6.5	11.4	-3.1	-3.9
Kyrgyzstan	11.1	8.2	-0.06	-23.4
Pakistan	3.1	4.5	-5.4	0.5
Tajikistan	8.4	3.4	-1.8	16.6
Türkiye	3.6	34.9	-2.8	-1.8
Turkmenistan	3.6	2.7	0.06	3.3
Uzbekistan	7.7	8.8	-1.6	-3.8
ECO	3.0	26.7	-3.2	-1.2

Source: National statistical offices, IMF & ETDB staff estimates

The general gross government debt to GDP ratio decreased moderately across the ECO region. Gross government debt to GDP ratio fell due to a decrease in the fiscal expenditures and reduction in domestic debt issuance amid fiscal consolidation and rise in interest rates. The total public debt of the region reached $956 billion with regional public debt to GDP ratio rising to 31.5% from 31% last year.

Future Outlook

IMF in its latest economic projections anticipates global growth to decelerate to 3.1% in 2026 and 3.2% in 2027. The projections reflect a pronounced slowdown compared

to a historical average of 3.7% over 2000-2019 period. This indicates a period of below trend expansion for the global economy. The deceleration is primarily attributed to trade distortions, geo-economic fragmentation and ongoing geopolitical conflicts, notably the Russia-Ukraine and US-Iran war.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has served as a massive negative supply shock for member countries of the ECO region. The main impact of the war is the spike in oil prices which has led to economy-wide disruption. Furthermore, the shock is expected to propagate through the member countries' economies leading to cost increases in agriculture, manufacturing, services, and transport sector which will feed into higher inflation through both first-round and second-round effects. As a result, the ECO region growth is expected to decelerate as confluence of surging inflation, supply-side disruption such as, observed in fertilizers, oil and grains, and the intensifying and cost of living crises erodes purchasing power and elevated production costs.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has led to exceptionally high uncertainty surrounding the future macroeconomic outlook, with much depending on the duration and scale of the crisis.

OPERATIONS

1. Business strategy and balance sheet items

In 2025, the Bank continued to advance its mandate of promoting sustainable economic development across its member countries, while ensuring the efficient utilization of its resources. Total loan disbursements reached SDR 228 million during the year, compared to SDR 186 million in the previous year, reflecting the Bank's continued commitment to supporting development and trade-related activities in the region. The Bank remained focused on identifying and pursuing financing opportunities in priority sectors with high development impact, including healthcare, education, energy, food production, and agricultural infrastructure.

Product type	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
M-SME Dev. Loans	84	8	16	27	8
Short term trade finance	52	70	42	80	30
Trade/Corporate finance	77	84	79	68	58
Project finance	15	24	48	8	26
Total	228	186	185	183	122

In parallel, it continued to strengthen its support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (M-SMEs) through credit lines extended to financial institutions and expanded its trade finance activities, with particular emphasis on facilitating the flow of raw materials, intermediate goods, healthcare-related products, and agricultural and food commodities. The SME/M-SME development loans constituted the largest portion of the disbursements in 2025, totalling SDR 84 million, followed by trade and corporate finance to customers with SDR 77 million, short-term trade finance to FIs with SDR 52 million, and project finance with SDR 15 million.Through these activities, the Bank continued to contribute to economic resilience, private sector growth and enhanced trade connectivity across the ECO region.

The Bank has also remained responsive to the evolving needs of its member countries, including through the provision of concessional financing to support recovery and reconstruction efforts following natural disasters and other emergency situations. Guided by the development priorities of its member states, the Bank's operational approach continues to be underpinned by the principles of development effectiveness, financial sustainability and accountability. Since the commencement of its lending operations in 2008, the Bank has disbursed a cumulative total of SDR 2.3 billion in financing across a broad range of projects and sectors in its member countries as of 31 December 2025.

The Bank's Fourth Five-Year Business Plan (2023–2027), approved by the Board of Governors in June 2023, provides a strategic roadmap for strengthening the Bank's role as a results-oriented and development-focused financial institution. The Plan sets out priorities for enhancing operational effectiveness, expanding development impact, and responding more effectively to the evolving needs of member countries. As additional resources become available, the Bank intends to capitalize on emerging opportunities to broaden its support for both public and private sector clients. Supported by its established business model, development impact framework, and project implementation capabilities, the Bank is well positioned to scale up its operations and contribute more effectively to sustainable economic growth and regional integration. The Bank will continue to pursue targeted business development and client engagement activities to identify new financing opportunities and further diversify and expand its portfolio.

The Bank maintained a well-managed and high-quality loan portfolio, supported by its prudent risk management framework and disciplined lending practices. The overall credit profile of the portfolio remained strong, reflecting the sound financial standing of its borrowers and the effectiveness of the Bank's risk assessment processes. As of 31 December 2025, the weighted average internal credit rating of the outstanding loan portfolio stood at 2.3, compared with 2.1 in 2024, on a scale of 1 to 10, where lower scores indicate lower credit risk. This continued to reflect the portfolio's overall sound credit quality and low risk profile.

The Bank offers a diversified range of short-, medium- and long-term financing products to both public and private sector clients across its member countries. The maturity profile of the loan portfolio is closely monitored to maintain a balanced portfolio structure and support the sustainable growth of operations. As of 31 December 2025, the average remaining tenor of the Bank's loan portfolio stood at 2.25 years, broadly unchanged from the previous year. The Bank continues to apply market-based pricing, including appropriate margins and fees, in a manner that balances financial sustainability with the provision of competitive financing solutions to its clients.

The Bank has aligned its financing operations with internationally recognized alternative benchmark rates, ensuring consistency with evolving global financial market standards and best practices. Financing operations are generally extended under sovereign or bank guarantees; however, the Bank may consider unsecured exposures where supported by strong credit fundamentals and consistent with its prudent risk management framework and sound banking principles.

The current membership of ETDB comprises six ECO member states—Türkiye, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan—representing the majority of ECO countries. In accordance with the Bank's Articles of Agreement, membership remains open to all ECO member states. Throughout 2025, the Bank, in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat, continued its engagement with the remaining four ECO member states—Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—to promote accession and highlight the benefits of ETDB membership. The expansion of the Bank's membership base would further strengthen its financial capacity and enhance its ability to expand operations and development impact across the region.

With the anticipated expansion of its business and geographic reach following the accession of new members, the Bank continues to strengthen its risk management framework. Adequate resources are allocated to the effective management of credit, market, and operational risks across its activities. The importance of a robust risk management system has been further reinforced by recent developments in global financial markets. To mitigate concentration risk, the Bank maintains a well-diversified portfolio across member countries and sectors. In addition, the internal rating model has been enhanced through the incorporation of sensitivity analysis techniques. Overall, the Bank continues to apply prudent risk management principles and sound business practices to maintain a balanced portfolio structure and risk profile.

The Bank continues to enhance co-financing arrangements with partner financial institutions in order to mobilize additional resources for prospective projects across its member countries. Its operations are conducted in accordance with sound corporate governance principles and robust operational policies, ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective risk management. All activities strictly adhere to the Bank's Negative List of Products Policy, anti-money laundering requirements, and Environmental Policy standards.

Building on accumulated experience, the Bank's Country Partnership Strategy reports, approved by the Board of Directors, provide an assessment of operations in each member country, identify priority investment needs, and emphasize the importance of strengthening operational dialogue with both public and private sector stakeholders. The Bank has successfully launched credit operations in Azerbaijan and continues to explore additional investment opportunities across its member states. Preparatory efforts are also underway to initiate operations in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Supervision and monitoring practices have been continuously strengthened to ensure compliance and enable the Bank to identify and proactively address issues affecting Bank-financed projects. Particular attention has been given to projects exposed to higher risks, with timely implementation of appropriate remedial actions and turnaround strategies. In line with the Business Plan and Country Strategy Reports, the Bank has continued to apply the following key business approaches:

- Maintaining a well-diversified loan portfolio across member countries, sectors, and counterparties to mitigate concentration risk.
- Ensuring effective management of loan disbursement and repayment operations;
- Maintaining an external credit rating issued by an internationally recognized rating agency;
- Sustaining a robust project pipeline in close cooperation with development partners;

- Securing a national credit rating to facilitate local currency financing and funding operations.
- Strengthening the correspondent banking network to facilitate trade finance operations;
- Increasing focus on supporting medium-sized enterprises and second-tier, high-growth potential companies;
- Identifying and developing new financial products to further support economic and trade activities across member countries;
- Expanding the Bank's membership base in line with its strategic objectives;
- Enhancing co-financing arrangements with relevant financial and development partners;
- Strengthening the enterprise-wide risk management framework and practices;
- Continuously improving the Bank's policies and procedures to ensure a robust operational and regulatory framework;
- Maintaining an efficient and reliable IT infrastructure to support business continuity and operational effectiveness;
- Enhancing human resources and technical capacity in line with institutional needs and strategic priorities;
- Upholding prudent banking practices, with particular emphasis on evolving Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), sanctions compliance, and Know-Your-Customer (KYC) requirements.

During 2025, economic activity in member states was largely directed toward advancing development objectives while addressing external challenges, including inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions, and tighter global financial conditions. Despite certain operational constraints, the Bank delivered a solid performance against the operational targets set out in its Business Plan. The outstanding loan portfolio reached SDR 371 million at year-end, exceeding both the Business Plan base-case scenario target of SDR 339 million and the 2025 budget projection of SDR 352 million. Total assets amounted to SDR 536 million at the end of 2025, surpassing the Business Plan base-case projection of SDR 515 million and representing a 5.5% increase compared to the previous year. The Bank continued to generate positive income, reflecting its sound financial management and prudent operational approach. Net profit for the year ended 31 December 2025 stood at SDR 27,705 thousand, representing a 5% decrease compared to 2024, yet remaining above the Business Plan target of SDR 21 million.

(i) Balance Sheet

The Bank's financial management framework is focused on safeguarding long-term financial sustainability, thereby enabling it to fulfil its mandate in a prudent and effective manner. By preserving the integrity of its capital base and applying sound financial principles, the Bank is positioned to progressively advance towards operational self-sufficiency while meeting the growing financing needs of its member states in a sustainable and responsible manner.

As of 31 December 2025, the Bank's total assets reached SDR 536,283 thousand, representing a 5.5% increase from SDR 508,252 thousand as of 31 December 2024. This growth reflects the Bank's continued efforts to strengthen its financial position

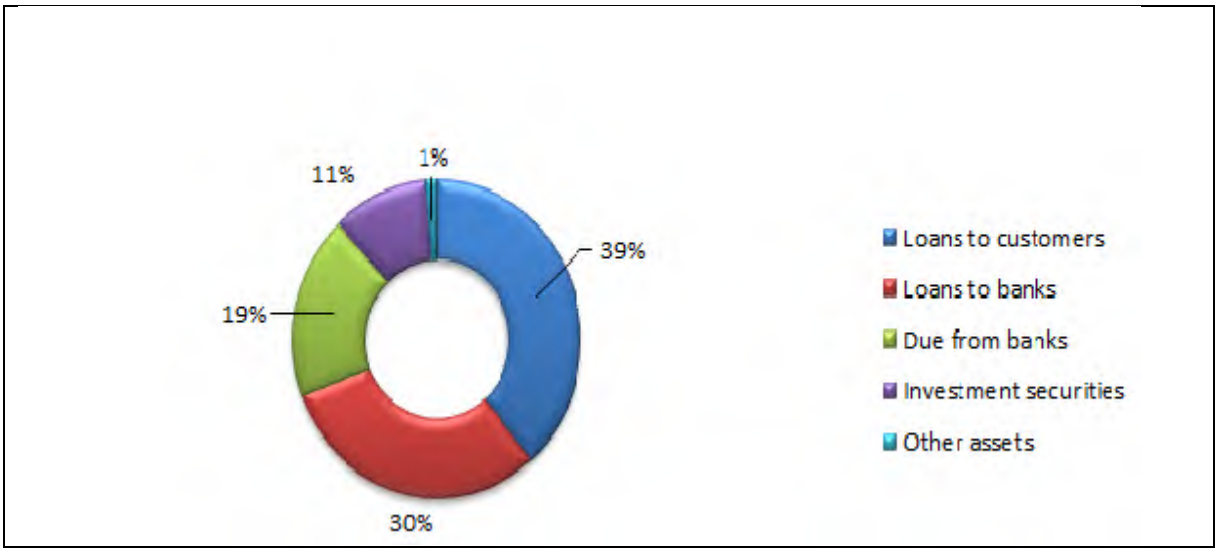
through prudent asset allocation, portfolio expansion, and effective balance sheet management.

The Bank's loan portfolio remained the principal component of its asset structure. Total net loans and advances amounted to SDR 371,351 thousand, compared to SDR 314,883 thousand in 2024, representing an increase of 17.9%. Within the portfolio, net loans and advances to customers increased to SDR 207,185 thousand from SDR 205,613 thousand in the previous year, while net loans and advances to banks increased significantly to SDR 164,166 thousand from SDR 109,270 thousand, reflecting enhanced financing activity with member institutions and banking counterparties.

Treasury investments and placements amounted to SDR 158,291 thousand, compared to SDR 184,513 thousand in 2024. This comprised SDR 100,062 thousand in balances and placements with banks, including money market placements, and SDR 58,229 thousand in investment securities. Treasury investments represented approximately 30% of total assets at year-end.

Other assets, including tangible and intangible assets, amounted to SDR 6,641 thousand, compared to SDR 8,856 thousand in the previous year. The Bank maintained a highly liquid and well-diversified balance sheet, supporting both its operational requirements and strategic development objectives.

Figure 4: Composition of Assets (31 December 2025)

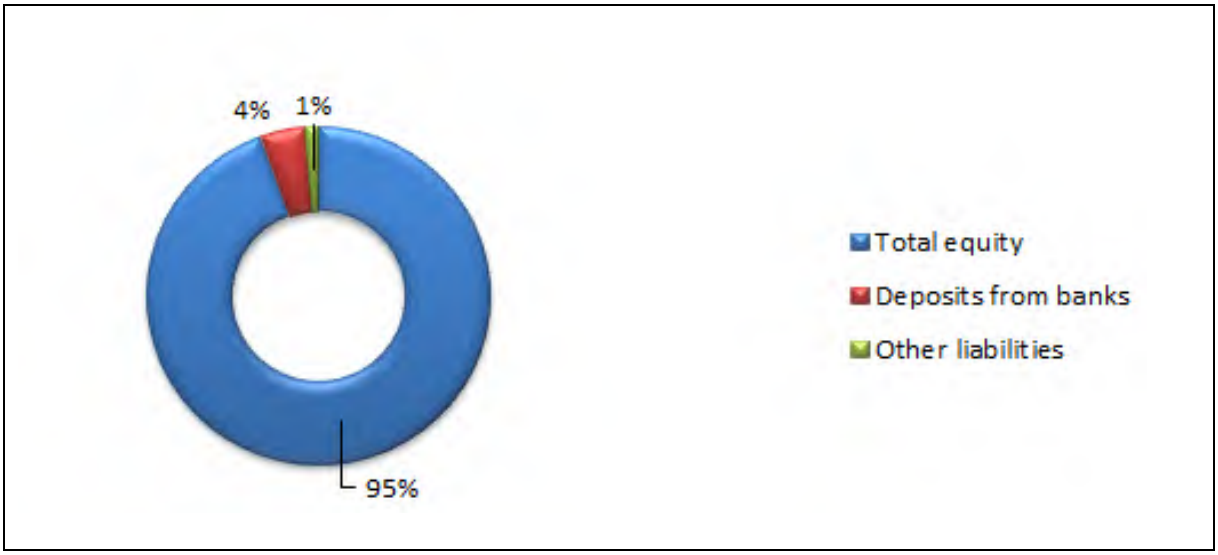


On the liabilities and equity side, total members' equity increased to SDR 506,662 thousand as of 31 December 2025, compared to SDR 478,946 thousand at the end of 2024, representing an increase of 5.8%. Members' equity accounted for approximately 94% of total assets, underscoring the Bank's strong capital base and financial resilience. Within total equity, reserves and retained earnings amounted to SDR 179,912 thousand, comprising SDR 152,207 thousand in reserves and SDR 27,705 thousand in retained earnings for the year. This robust capital position provides the

Bank with a solid foundation to support future business growth, absorb potential risks, and continue fulfilling its development mandate.

Total liabilities remained broadly stable at SDR 29,621 thousand, compared to SDR 29,306 thousand in 2024. Deposits from banks amounted to SDR 22,986 thousand, slightly lower than SDR 23,880 thousand in the previous year, while other liabilities increased to SDR 6,635 thousand from SDR 5,426 thousand. The Bank maintained a conservative funding structure characterized by low leverage and a strong reliance on its equity base, contributing to its overall financial strength and stability.

Figure 5: Composition of Liabilities & Equity (31 December 2025)



In summary, the Bank's balance sheet remains robust and well capitalised, supported by a strong equity base, diversified asset composition, and a conservative funding structure. These characteristics underpin the Bank's financial stability and support its continued pursuit of sustainable development objectives in the coming periods.

(ii) Loan Portfolio

The Bank commenced its loan operations in December 2008. Since inception, total board-approved operations, encompassing SME finance to financial intermediaries, trade and corporate finance, and project finance to customers, have reached SDR 2,410 million as of 2025, reflecting a moderate increase compared to SDR 2,266 million in 2024.

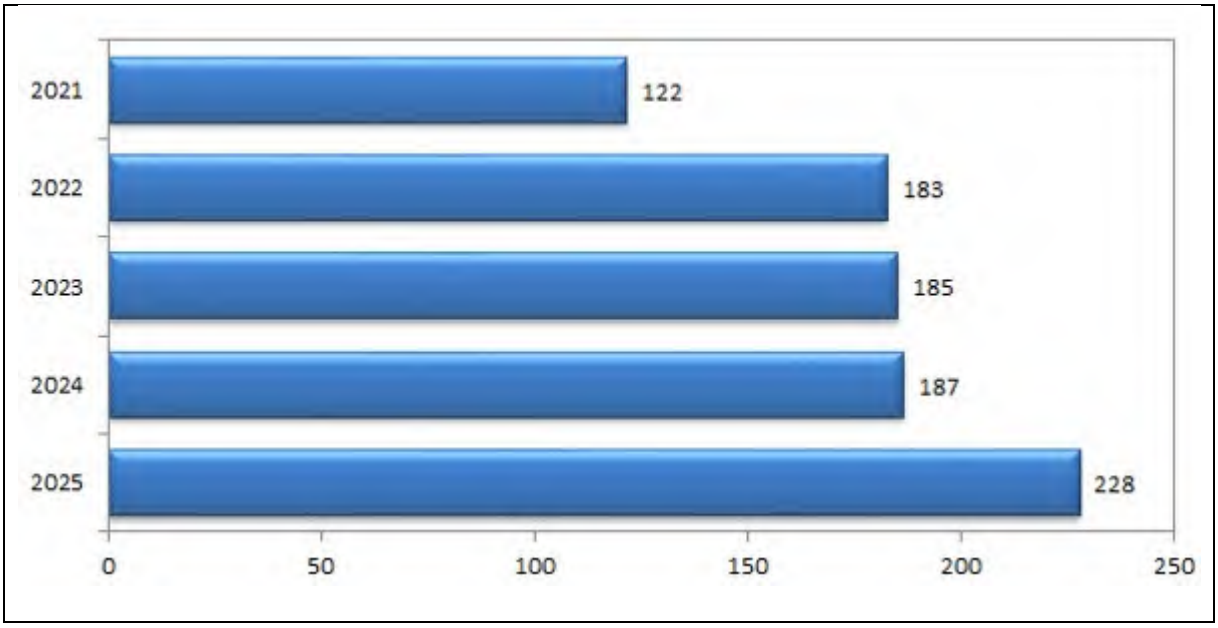
Within this period, signed agreements under these limits amounted to SDR 1,500 million in 2025, up from SDR 1,325 million in the previous year.

Figure 6: Signed operations vs. Board approvals 2021-25 (SDR million)



Total disbursements for these operations increased to SDR 1,424 million by the end of 2025, compared to SDR 1,248 million in 2024. Additionally, short-term trade finance loans disbursed to banks in member countries accounted for SDR 902 million. Consequently, total disbursements reached SDR 2,326 million by the end of 2025, up from SDR 2,098 million in 2024.

Figure 7: Annual loan disbursements 2021-25 (SDR million)



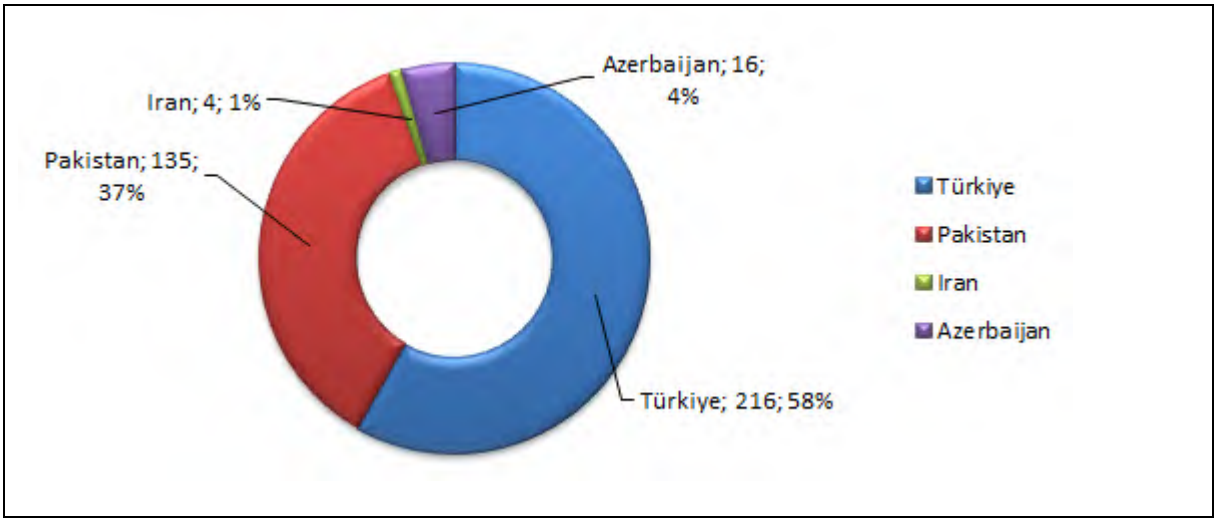
As of 31 December 2025, the Bank's outstanding loan portfolio stood at SDR 371 million, 18% higher than SDR 315 million at the end of 2024.

Figure 8: Portfolio development 2021-25 (SDR million)



Outstanding loans were primarily concentrated in Türkiye (SDR 216 million) and Pakistan (SDR 135 million), with Azerbaijan and Iran accounting for SDR 16 million and SDR 4 million respectively. The allocation of outstanding loan portfolio among member countries as of 31 December 2025 was as follows:

Figure 9: Outstanding loans by country- 31 December 2025 (SDR million, percentage)



(iii) Revenues

Interest income from lending activities amounted to SDR 16,776 thousand in 2025, compared to SDR 22,548 thousand in 2024. Of this amount, SDR 10,702 thousand was derived from loans to customers (2024: SDR 14,626 thousand), while SDR 6,074 thousand originated from loans to banks (2024: SDR 7,922 thousand). Treasury operations contributed SDR 12,087 thousand in interest income (2024: SDR 10,362 thousand), comprising SDR 8,055 thousand from money market placements and SDR 4,032 thousand from investment securities.

The Bank recorded a net impairment gain for credit risks of SDR 1,718 thousand in 2025, compared to a net impairment loss of SDR 328 thousand in 2024, reflecting

improvements in the credit quality and risk profile of certain exposures as well as the revision in the provisioning model. Net fee and commission income remained stable at SDR 551 thousand, compared to SDR 511 thousand in the previous year. Net trading operations generated a gain of SDR 1,464 thousand, compared to a loss of SDR 341 thousand in 2024, mainly reflecting valuation effects on foreign currency swap positions.

Other operating income amounted to SDR 2 thousand in 2025, compared to SDR 1,658 thousand in 2024. The previous year's result had been significantly supported by the revaluation of the Bank's headquarters premises, which did not recur in 2025. Consequently, total operating income amounted to SDR 31,412 thousand in 2025, compared to SDR 32,713 thousand in 2024. Despite lower interest income from lending activities, the decline in operating income was largely mitigated by the net impairment gain and the strong performance of trading activities during the year.

(iv) Expenses

Interest expense decreased to SDR 1,186 thousand in 2025 from SDR 1,697 thousand in 2024, primarily reflecting lower funding costs due to the decline in market interest rates during the year.

General and administrative expenses amounted to SDR 3,697 thousand, compared to SDR 3,505 thousand in 2024. Personnel expenses increased to SDR 2,998 thousand from SDR 2,838 thousand, reflecting normal salary adjustments and staff-related costs. Operational expenses rose marginally to SDR 330 thousand (2024: SDR 322 thousand), while administrative expenses increased to SDR 206 thousand from SDR 192 thousand. Depreciation charges amounted to SDR 163 thousand, compared to SDR 153 thousand in the previous year.

The Bank continued to exercise prudent cost management while investing in its operational capabilities. The reduction in funding costs and other operating expenses more than offset the moderate increase in administrative expenditures, supporting the Bank's strong financial performance and profitability during the year.

(v) Net Income

The Bank reported a net profit of SDR 27,705 thousand for the year ended 31 December 2025, compared to SDR 29,154 thousand in 2024. While profit decreased by 5.0% year-on-year, the Bank maintained a strong level of profitability, supported by the solid performance of its lending and treasury activities, a net impairment gain, and effective cost control measures.

(vi) Reserves

Reserves represent the internally generated capital of the Bank, accumulated through the retention of earnings. In accordance with the Bank's financial policies, these reserves serve as the primary buffer to protect the Bank's share capital against potential impairments resulting from credit losses in excess of provisions or from adverse impacts related to market, operational, or compliance risks.

Pursuant to the Bank's Articles of Agreement, retained earnings are allocated to reserves until they reach 25% of the subscribed share capital. As of 31 December

2025, the Bank's reserves amounted to SDR 152,207 thousand, corresponding to approximately 14% of the subscribed capital.

Table 3: Financial results (2021-25)

Thousands of SDR	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Assets	**536,283**	**508,252**	**492,286**	**470,849**	**464,692**
Treasury investments	158,291	184,513	166,780	154,773	221,025
Loan portfolio	371,351	314,883	320,153	310,477	238,265
Other assets	6,641	8,856	5,353	5,599	5,402
Liabilities	**29,621**	**29,306**	**42,424**	**42,920**	**52,244**
Borrowings	22,986	23,880	35,956	36,473	48,108
Other liabilities	6,635	5,426	6,468	6,447	4,136
Members' equity	**506,662**	**478,946**	**449,862**	**427,929**	**412,448**
Income	**32,614**	**35,093**	**28,042**	**20,040**	**12,980**
Interest and fees	29,430	33,435	27,789	16,584	11,605
Other income	3,184	1,658	253	3,456	1,375
Expenses	**-4,909**	**-5,939**	**-6,091**	**-4,544**	**-3,926**
Interest and fees	-1,202	-1,711	-1,705	-723	-486
Administrative	-3,697	-3,505	-3,976	-3,104	-3,315
Other expenses	-10	-723	-410	-717	-125
Net profit	**27,705**	**29,154**	**21,951**	**15,496**	**9,054**

(vii) Provisioning

In line with IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments, the Bank applies a three-stage impairment model that categorizes financial assets based on changes in credit quality subsequent to initial recognition:

- Stage 1: Assets with no significant increase in credit risk or financial assets having low credit risk; subject to 12-month expected credit loss provisions.
- Stage 2: Assets with a significant increase in credit risk, but without objective evidence of impairment; lifetime expected credit losses are recognized.
- Stage 3: Assets that show objective evidence of impairment; lifetime expected credit losses are recognized.

As of 31 December 2025, the Bank maintained a high-quality credit portfolio, with all financial assets classified in Stage 1 except for one exposure classified in Stage 2. The Bank recognized a net reversal of expected credit loss allowances of EU 1,718 thousand during the year, mainly reflecting revisions to its provisioning model and the resulting reassessment of credit risk parameters.

(viii) Key financial indicators (2021-25)

The Bank's performance in 2025 is reflected in its key financial indicators, demonstrating sustained profitability, strong capitalization, and prudent risk management despite a more challenging operating environment. The continued expansion of the loan portfolio, coupled with effective balance sheet management and

disciplined cost control, supported the Bank's overall financial performance. The Bank remains committed to fulfilling its development mandate while ensuring efficient capital utilization and maintaining credit, liquidity, and market risks within approved limits.

In 2025, the return on members' equity stood at 5.6%, compared to 6.3% in 2024. Similarly, return on assets decreased slightly to 5.3% from 5.8% in the previous year. While profitability remained strong, both indicators were affected by lower net profit compared to the exceptionally strong results achieved in 2024.

Interest income as a percentage of interest-bearing assets declined to 5.6% in 2025 from 6.7% in 2024, reflecting lower yields on treasury placements and lending activities during the year. The net interest margin decreased modestly to 1.7% from 1.9% in 2024, remaining at a healthy level and demonstrating the Bank's continued ability to generate stable earnings from its core banking activities.

The Bank maintained a strong focus on operational efficiency. General and administrative expenses represented 12.6% of revenues in 2025, compared to 10.5% in 2024. The increase primarily reflects lower revenues and moderately higher administrative costs during the year. Nevertheless, the ratio remained significantly below historical levels, demonstrating the Bank's continued commitment to prudent cost management.

The Bank's leverage position strengthened further in 2025. The ratio of total debt to members' equity declined to 4.5%, compared to 5.0% in 2024 and 8.0% in 2023. This improvement was driven by the gradual reduction in borrowings and continued growth in members' equity, reinforcing the Bank's strong capital position and financial resilience.

As a result, the Bank continued to maintain a highly capitalized balance sheet, providing a solid foundation to support future growth and the implementation of its strategic objectives while preserving its conservative risk profile.

Table 4: Financial ratios (Percentage) 2021-25

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Financial performance					
Return on members' equity	5.6%	6.3%	5.0%	3.7%	2.2%
Return on assets	5.3%	5.8%	4.6%	3.3%	1.9%
Interest income / interest bearing assets	5.6%	6.7%	5.7%	3.5%	2.4%
Net interest margin	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%	2.3%	1.8%
Efficiency					
Gen. & Administrative expenses / revenues	12.6%	10.5%	14.3%	18.7%	28.6%
Leverage					
Total debt / members' equity	4.5%	5.0%	8.0%	8.5%	11.7%

2. Business Activities

As a development finance institution, the Bank's operations are guided by a mandate to promote regional trade, strengthen private sector development—particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (M-SMEs)—and respond to the financing and technical assistance needs of corporates and investment projects across member

countries. In a challenging operating environment, the Bank has remained active in delivering its operations with the objective of supporting sustainable growth and economic resilience.

The Bank provides financing on competitive and development-oriented terms, with lending typically structured on the basis of sovereign or bank guarantees, while unsecured exposures may be considered where aligned with a prudent risk framework. Investment decisions are underpinned by rigorous assessments of additionality and development impact, alongside traditional credit considerations, including transaction structure, sponsor strength, sector dynamics, applicable technology, collateral coverage and tenor. Within this framework, development impact continues to serve as a core determinant in prioritising operations that balance financial sustainability with developmental outcomes.

Since the launch of its lending operations in 2008, the Bank has cumulatively disbursed SDR 2.3 billion across its portfolio as of end-2025. By product type, short-term trade finance to FIs represented the largest portion of disbursements at SDR 902 million, followed by trade and corporate finance to customers with SDR 753 million, SME/M-SME development loans totalling SDR 417 million, and project finance at SDR 254 million

Table 5: Loan disbursements during 2008-2025 as per country (Millions of SDR)

	Iran	Pakistan	Türkiye	Azerbaijan	Total
SME/M-SME Dev. Loans	34	43	330	10	417
Short term trade finance	64	111	713	14	902
Trade/Corporate finance	60	608	77	8	753
Project finance	64	93	97	-	254
Total	**222**	**855**	**1,217**	**32**	**2,326**

Since its establishment, the Bank has channelled over SDR 1.3 billion through financial intermediaries to support intra-regional trade, stimulate economic activity and promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) across the ECO region. In line with its mandate to foster regional integration and sustainable growth, the Bank leverages a broad network of financial intermediaries to reach final beneficiaries, particularly within the MSME segment and trade finance operations.

These intermediaries include selected commercial and investment banks, microfinance and SME finance institutions, as well as leasing companies. All partner institutions are subject to comprehensive appraisal and due diligence processes in accordance with the Bank's policies and operational guidelines. Exposure limits are assigned based on the financial strength, operational reliability and strategic alignment of each institution with the Bank's sectoral and disbursement priorities.

Going forward, the Bank intends to further expand its network of financial intermediaries across member countries, while developing new products to enhance portfolio diversification in terms of geography, sectors and client segments.

In the area of corporate and project finance, the Bank has successfully supported the implementation of development projects across a range of sectors, including renewable energy, urban transport system, healthcare, education, and food and agricultural infrastructure. These investments reflect the Bank's continued focus on

financing projects with strong development impact and contributions to sustainable economic growth across the region.

(i) Bank and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Operations

The Bank provides targeted development and trade finance facilities to selected financial intermediaries across Member Countries. This intermediary model optimizes operational efficiency and expands the Bank's reach within two core market segments:

A. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (M-SME) Finance, and
B. Trade Finance.

These facilities are structurally deployed utilizing both conventional and Islamic finance models. Since inception, ETDB has extended funding to 34 financial institutions (FIs), representing a cumulative financing volume of USD 1.86 billion.

A. M-SME Development Loans

(i) Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Finance

SMEs serve as critical engines for economic growth, employment generation, and social development within the ECO Region. Despite their systemic importance, these enterprises face persistent structural barriers to funding. ETDB's medium-term SME finance facilities address this market gap by encouraging intermediary financial institutions to expand their credit exposure to the SME sector.

- Portfolio Performance: As of year-end 2025, the outstanding SME development loan portfolio to financial intermediaries stood at USD 152 million.
- Credit Deployment: New SME finance disbursements to financial intermediaries reached USD 115 million in 2025. Concurrently, sub-loan deployments from intermediaries to end-beneficiary SMEs—inclusive of recycled legacy ETDB funds—totaled USD 158 million supported by an average sub-loan maturity profile of 40 months.
- Outreach: In 2025, ETDB onboarded 75 new SME sub-borrowers, expanding the total cumulative beneficiaries of the outstanding (as of YE 2025) portfolio to 357 enterprises.
- Additionality: Commercial banks in member countries traditionally restrict scarce long-term funding to lower-risk corporate clients. ETDB's provision of long-term resources allows sub-borrowers—with average 50 employees per enterprise across the agriculture, retail trade, construction, food, energy, transportation, and textile sectors—to secure vital investment capital otherwise unavailable in local markets.
- Green Finance Integration: Of the total USD 115 million deployed in sub-loans, USD 30 million was explicitly directed toward integrating environmental sustainability into beneficiary operations, specifically targeting:
  - Renewable Energy: Advancing the utilization of alternative and renewable energy sources.
  - Energy Efficiency: Optimizing thermal insulation, modernizing machinery, and adopting energy-efficient technologies.

- Sustainable Product Development: Enhancing the production of verified green and eco-friendly products.
- Resource Optimization: Improving raw material and input efficiency across manufacturing and production lines.
- Circular Economy Transition: Minimizing waste output through enhanced industrial recycling and waste reduction systems.
- Sustainable Logistics: Accelerating the transition to lower-emission, greener transportation frameworks.
- Agro-Sustainability: Driving environmentally responsible practices across the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Future intermediary operations will continue to prioritize green finance initiatives to foster environmental sustainability, alongside accelerated digitalization of SME lending infrastructure.

(ii) Microfinance

Conventional banking systems frequently exclude low-income segments, creating adverse macroeconomic effects by restricting entrepreneurship. ETDB launched its microfinance facilities in 2013 to provide vulnerable populations, those facing labor market exclusion, and credit-disadvantaged individuals with the resources needed to generate sustainable income.

To distinctly differentiate sustainable microfinance from traditional M-SME financing and support financial inclusion, ETDB encourages underwriting models geared toward the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. The Bank strategically provides preferential terms and conditions to partner financial institutions and microfinance banks that utilize cash-flow based credit analysis and waive tangible collateral requirements for end-borrowers. By offering enhanced pricing and structural incentives to intermediaries adopting this unsecured approach, ETDB aims to safely deploy capital to viable micro-entrepreneurs who lack traditional property or asset backing.

Moving forward, ETDB will actively target women-led and managed micro-businesses. Societal and cultural barriers disproportionately impact women's access to financial services. To bridge this structural market gap, ETDB will partner with local organizations to deploy targeted financial solutions for women entrepreneurs.

Structural Framework of M-SME Development Loans

Product Specifications

- Financing Structures: Facilities are deployed through both conventional and Islamic finance modalities.
- Maturity Profile: Standard loan tenors range from 2 to 5 years. Subordinated (Tier II) M-SME loans can extend up to 10 years.
- Eligible Use of Funds: Intermediaries may deploy funds for either Investment Capital or Working Capital purposes.
- Sub-Borrower Criteria: Beneficiaries must reside within ETDB member states and fulfil the official national M-SME definition of their respective jurisdictions.
- Minimum On-Lending Tenor: To ensure sub-borrowers receive structural, long-term capital, intermediaries must maintain a minimum on-lending tenure of 6 months.

- Compliance Standards: Sub-borrowers must strictly adhere to ETDB's environmental policies and operate outside the Bank's prohibited activities list.

Operational Workflow and Risk Allocation

- Delegated Authority: Intermediaries allocate funds autonomously without prior ETDB approval, provided end-borrowers fulfil all baseline eligibility criteria.
- Monitoring: Partner institutions submit regular reporting packages covering their institutional financial standing and sub-loan portfolio metrics.
- Eligibility and Access: All commercial banks, leasing companies, and microfinance banks in member states are eligible to apply. Access to funding is granted upon successful completion of a comprehensive credit review, limit establishment, and legal documentation.
- Application Pathway: End-user M-SMEs apply directly through local partner financial institutions rather than ETDB, subject to the individual intermediary's underwriting guidelines.

B. Trade Finance Facilities

ETDB's trade finance operations are directed toward two primary strategic objectives within the ECO Region:

- Regional Integration: Enhancing and accelerating trade relations between ECO member countries.
- Economic Resilience: Ensuring the continuous availability of trade liquidity during critical import cycles, while backing export activities to generate essential foreign exchange reserves.

To optimize market penetration, these facilities are routed through selected partner financial institutions, which on-lend the funds directly to eligible importing and exporting enterprises. The Bank offers trade finance facilities across two complementary sub-segments to catalyse regional commercial activities.

- Export Finance Facilities: Tailored to provide pre- and post-shipment liquidity to exporters within member countries, driving the production and cross-border sale of manufactured goods, commodities, and agricultural products across all productive sectors of the economy.
- Import Finance Facilities: Structured to fund the procurement of foreign capital equipment (machinery and associated components), raw materials, and intermediary industrial goods to boost local productivity, accelerate industrial modernization, and ultimately cultivate greater export capacity.

As of year-end 2025, the total trade finance portfolio of the BNFI Department stood at USD 73 million, supporting 54 individual trade transactions throughout the year.

The structural distribution of these transactions is detailed below:

- Intra-Regional Trade: 16 transactions supported trade corridors where both the exporter and importer operated within the ECO region.
    - Traded goods primarily consisted of cotton, construction materials, medical equipment, and electrical energy.
    - With USD 17 million, this segment comprised 23% of indirect trade finance deployment in 2025.

- Export Operations: 20 transactions financed outbound trade from member countries to international markets, outside ECO region.
    - Beneficiaries included corporations operating within the food processing, textiles, medical equipment, iron and steel, and automotive components sectors.
    - With USD 41 million export finance volume, this segment accounted for 56% of total trade finance facility allocations in 2025.
- Import Operations: 18 transactions financed the inbound procurement of essential capital equipment and intermediary goods into member states.
    - With USD 15 million, this segment represented 21% of the active portfolio volume.

Moving forward, ETDB will strategically intensify its support for intra-regional trade corridors. The Bank intends to offer highly competitive, preferential pricing matrices and financial terms specifically for intra-regional trade transactions to further bind member country economies.

Structural Framework of Trade Finance Facilities

Financial intermediaries are authorized to deploy ETDB trade finance facilities under three specific structural categories:

Category	Transaction Scope	Maximum Financing Cap	Strategic Objectives
I. Intra-Regional Trade Finance	Inbound trade into any ETDB member country originating from another ECO member state.	Subject to credit review limits.	Intra-regional trade integration.
II. Global Export Finance	Outbound trade from any ETDB member country to any global destination.	Subject to credit review limits.	Export-led growth and foreign exchange generation.
III. Strategic Import Finance	Import of capital equipment, raw materials, and intermediary goods into an ETDB member country from any global source.	Up to 85% of transaction value *(100% for health and basic humanitarian imports)*.	Enhancement of competitive advantages, job creation, and export readiness.

Operational and Compliance Parameters

- Financing Flexibility: Facilities are versatile and can be configured to cover either pre-shipment financing, post-shipment financing, or a combination of both phases within a given trade cycle.
- Intermediary Access: Any financial institution registered and operating within an ECO member country is eligible to apply for intermediary status, subject to standard institutional credit evaluations.

- Maturity Profile: Loan tenors extended to financial intermediaries are structured to match short-to-medium term trade cycles, ranging strictly between 6 months and 2 years.

Intermediaries hold autonomous deployment rights but must ensure that all sub-borrowers and transactions strictly comply with ETDB's Environmental Policies and explicitly avoid items listed on the Bank's Negative List of Products.

(ii) Corporate and Project Finance

The year 2025 marked a period of continued drive for new initiatives for the Corporate and Project Finance (CPF) Department. Building on the foundations laid in prior years, the Department pursued an assertive strategy of expanding its transaction pipeline, driven by deep engagement with both existing clients and prospective new partners across Member States. Relationship-building remained at the heart of CPF's business development efforts, with the Department investing considerable resources in understanding client needs, assessing market conditions, and tailoring financial solutions that are responsive to the evolving development landscape.

In 2025, the Bank approved a new soft loan of USD 20.00 M to support the rehabilitation and restoration of critical infrastructure at the Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project (MDHP) in Pakistan — marking a significant new transaction within the Bank's growing portfolio of climate-resilient and sustainable development financing.

The MDHP, implemented by the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) on the Swat River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, is a landmark multipurpose infrastructure project that upon completion will deliver 800 MW of renewable hydropower, provide robust flood control protection for downstream communities, bring 6,773 hectares of land under irrigated agriculture, and secure a sustained supply of 13.30 m^3/s of clean drinking water to the city of Peshawar.

The Bank's intervention was necessitated by the severe structural damage inflicted on the project's under-construction diversion infrastructure during the catastrophic August 2022 floods, which caused the collapse of 66 meters of Diversion Tunnel-1 along with its inlet portal, displaced critical construction equipment, and destroyed three central spans of the Munda Headworks and Bridge located downstream — damage that formed part of the broader national disaster in which over one-third of Pakistan was submerged, more than 1,700 lives were lost, and economic losses exceeded USD 40 billion.

Recognizing both the developmental urgency of restoring construction momentum on this nationally critical project and the acute vulnerability of Pakistan — consistently ranked among the world's top 20 nations most exposed to catastrophic flood risk — the Bank extended this facility to enable WAPDA to undertake comprehensive remediation works, reinforce flood-damaged structures, and ensure the safe and timely continuation of a project that will serve as a cornerstone of Pakistan's climate adaptation, energy security, and water resource management agenda for decades to come.

A key pillar of CPF's 2025 strategy was the acceleration of collaborative financing arrangements with peer Multilateral Financial Institutions (MFIs). Recognizing that the

scale of development challenges across Member States often exceeds what any single institution can address alone, the Department actively pursued co-financing frameworks that pool expertise, share risk, and unlock greater volumes of concessional and semi-concessional resources. These partnerships not only expanded the Bank's financial reach but also enhanced the quality and credibility of its interventions, positioning it as a valued partner within the broader multilateral financing ecosystem. As a result, one of the bank’s traditional partners, i.e. Islamic Development Banking Group was approached for any syndication transaction, where the two organizations could collaborate together.

In parallel, CPF placed heightened emphasis on the governance and active stewardship of its existing portfolio. Regular performance reviews, structured monitoring mechanisms, and proactive dialogue with borrowers ensured that all active transactions remained on track, aligned with agreed milestones, and consistent with the Bank's institutional mandate. Where necessary, the Department engaged in constructive problem-solving with clients to address implementation challenges and safeguard development outcomes.

Among the most enduring and impactful dimensions of CPF's operations in 2025 was its continued support to the Government of Pakistan through the Oil and Gas Trade Finance program administered in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. This facility, which has served as a critical lifeline for Pakistan's energy import requirements, remained fully operational throughout the year, responding to the country's ongoing demand for reliable energy supply in a complex global commodity environment.

Both USD and Euro-denominated tranches under the program were actively utilized during 2025, providing Pakistan with the liquidity needed to finance incremental import shipments of petroleum and natural gas products. The Bank's sustained commitment to this program underscores its recognition of energy security as a foundational prerequisite for economic stability and growth. Since the program's launch in 2014, cumulative Bank financing to the Government of Pakistan under this facility has climbed to approximately USD 619.00 million — a milestone that reflects over a decade of uninterrupted partnership and speaks volumes about the depth of the institution's commitment to one of its most strategically significant Member States.

In a landmark step toward broadening the Bank's financial product offering and deepening its engagement with alternative and faith-aligned financing mechanisms, two existing trade finance transactions were strategically converted into Murabaha Trade Finance structures during the year — a decisive move that signals the Bank's commitment to embracing the full spectrum of available financial instruments in service of its development mandate. This conversion reflects a deliberate and forward-looking institutional strategy to access secondary debt markets within the Islamic Banking sphere, opening new channels of liquidity, attracting a wider investor base, and positioning the Bank as a credible and capable participant in the rapidly expanding global Islamic finance ecosystem, which today manages assets exceeding USD 3 trillion and continues to grow at a compelling pace across Member States and beyond.

The conversion of these transactions into Murabaha structures carries meaningful and multidimensional benefits for the Bank's overall portfolio. From a product diversity standpoint, it reduces the institution's dependence on conventional financing instruments alone, creating a more balanced and resilient portfolio architecture that can draw on multiple financial traditions and market segments. It also enhances the

Bank's competitive positioning by enabling it to offer Shariah-compliant solutions to clients for whom Islamic financing is not merely a preference but a fundamental requirement — thereby unlocking a segment of potential transactions that might otherwise have remained inaccessible under a purely conventional financing framework. Furthermore, the integration of Murabaha structures into the Bank's product suite strengthens its ability to forge co-financing partnerships with Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, and other Shariah-compliant institutions, creating pathways for collaborative deal structuring and resource mobilization that can amplify the Bank's developmental reach and impact.

From a portfolio management perspective, Murabaha Trade Finance introduces an additional layer of structural discipline, given its asset-backed nature and the clarity of its cost-plus-profit framework, which supports transparent risk assessment and predictable cash flow management. The self-liquidating character of trade finance Murabaha transactions — typically tied to specific, identifiable underlying trade flows — further contributes to portfolio quality by anchoring repayment to concrete commercial activity rather than generalized creditworthiness alone. Collectively, these attributes make the Murabaha instrument a strategically valuable addition to the Bank's toolkit, and this initial conversion of two transactions is envisioned as the foundation of a broader and more ambitious Islamic finance engagement strategy that the Bank intends to develop and scale in the years ahead, bringing fresh perspective, diversified risk, and expanded opportunity to its evolving product portfolio.

In Azerbaijan, the momentum generated by the Bank's first-ever CPF transaction — a Euro 9.40 million corporate finance facility extended to Kolin Insaat for the procurement of materials and services related to highway upgradation works — continued to open doors for further engagement. This landmark transaction demonstrated the Bank's capacity to support infrastructure modernization in the country, and CPF leveraged this entry point to explore additional opportunities in the transportation and connectivity sector, including prospective engagements in railway corridor renovation projects that hold the potential to significantly improve regional trade and mobility.

Sustainability remained a defining theme of CPF's operational identity in 2025. The Department's portfolio continued to reflect the Bank's strong commitment to the energy transition, with a range of active transactions contributing meaningfully to the expansion of clean and renewable energy capacity across Member States.

The Department remains firmly committed to growing the renewable energy share of its portfolio in the years ahead, actively seeking out transactions particularly in solar and energy efficiency fields that meet the Bank's developmental and financial criteria. In doing so, CPF is positioning the institution as a credible and active participant in the global effort to mobilize climate finance for the benefit of developing economies.

Pakistan continued to be the largest single-country exposure within the CPF portfolio in 2025, reflecting the depth and breadth of the Bank's engagement with this important Member State. Total approved facilities during the year amounted to USD 171.66million, allocated across a carefully balanced mix of priority sectors. Solar / Hydro / Fossil Fuel energy financing formed a central component of these approvals, supporting Pakistan's efforts to diversify its generation mix and sustain its imported fossil fuels. While dedicated allocations for disaster relief reflected the Bank's

responsiveness to humanitarian and reconstruction requirements arising from natural calamities.

In Iran, the Bank sustained its constructive engagement with environmental and utility infrastructure, maintaining EUR 5.855 million in financing targeted at critical wastewater management investment, thereby supporting the expansion and rehabilitation of sanitation infrastructure, contributing to improved public health outcomes and environmental protection.

Türkiye continues to represent one of the most significant and multifaceted country engagements within CPF portfolio. The bank continued supervising and monitoring the facilities granted for renewable energy, earthquake relief as well as covid relief financing. The Bank's total CPF portfolio exposure in Türkiye remained at USD 86.345M — a figure that illustrates the full spectrum of the Bank's engagement with this Member State across both developmental and humanitarian dimensions.

In aggregate, the CPF Department closed 2025 with a total portfolio value of USD 280.11M, reflecting a year of sustained activity, disciplined portfolio supervision & monitoring and continued alignment with the Bank's core development mandate. As the Department looks ahead, it remains focused on deepening client relationships, expanding into new sectors and geographies, and ensuring that every transaction it supports delivers genuine, measurable, and lasting impact for the people and economies of its Member States.

3. Treasury Operations

The core pillars of ETDB Treasury (similar to any other MDB) are a) Asset & Liability management; b) liquidity management, and c) Funding and capital market.

(a) Asset & Liability management:

The Treasury Department ensures that the bank’s assets match its liabilities in order to reduce the impact of movements in the market. Unlike a commercial bank treasury, a MDB Treasury operates under a "Prudential Framework" rather than just a profit motive. Their primary goal is Financial Sustainability. In achieving the primary goal, the bank emphasizes the management of market risks- namely, currency and interest rate risks that are daily monitored and managed by the Treasury Department under the supervision of the Asset Liability Committee of the Bank (ALCO). ALCO sets the market and liquidity risk limits and defines the guidelines for managing these risks.

(i) Currency Risk Management: The bank calculates and manages its currency positions based on the formula and the limit defined by ALCO. It is monitored daily by the ALM unit (under Treasury) and reports breaches (if any) to ALCO. Hedging instruments are used for the effective management of currency risk. VaR calculation for the currency risk is one of the tools used for currency risk monitoring.

(iii) Interest rate risk management: The bank’s general policy is to use micro strategies to control interest rate risk. The advantage of micro hedging is that the hedger can reduce yield curve risk by hedging each asset/maturity/duration with an instrument that is priced off a similar point on the yield curve. The ΔNII tool is used for monitoring and managing the interest rate risk with the formula and limit defined by ALCO.

(b) Liquidity Management:

MDBs must be able to meet their financial obligations at all times. ETDB Treasury manages a "liquidity buffer" (cash and high-quality investments) efficiently and effectively to ensure that ETDB's commitments are met on time as well as to earn additional income. The credit risk in the Treasury is kept at a minimum as the investments are made in assets with the "Good" category. The Bank strictly follows liquidity risk policy by monitoring the liquidity coverage ratio (liquid assets to net cash requirement ratio) and the "liquidity buffer" ratio. Also, stress test scenarios are applied to keep the liquidity coverage ratio at adequate levels.

(c) Funding and Capital market:

The reporting currency of ETDB is in SDR, while the operational currency for the loans is mostly EUR. Treasury provides the funding in EURs through swaps of non-operational currencies. Treasury ensures the EURs are available at the market rate for the loan disbursements.

In 2025, ETDB initiated the process of generating funds in local currency through the capital market. ETDB received the "AAA", the highest credit rating for national rating by JCR-EURASIA. The bank aims to capitalize on the rating in the coming year(s).

While achieving the three major functions stated above, TD has performed operations (deals) in the total turnover of around USD 1.972 billion during 2025:

USD 898 million in the Money Market and the Capital Market,
USD 1,060 million in FX swaps,
USD 14.3 million in FX.

Looking ahead, the Treasury Department remains committed to managing the Bank's liquidity in alignment with evolving market conditions, while seeking to achieve optimal returns within the liquidity, FX, and interest rate risk limits set by the Bank's internal committees and governing procedures. In addition to its core functions, the Department is currently exploring the feasibility of diversifying its funding sources with the expansion of its liability products and currencies.

4. Technical Assistance and Advisory Services

The Bank's technical assistance (TA) activities aim to support member states in the formulation and coordination of development strategies and plans, strengthen institutional capacities, undertake sectoral and policy-oriented studies, and enhance knowledge on development, regional cooperation and integration. TA services constitute a key instrument in achieving these objectives and an integral component of the Bank's operational strategy. In view of its limited capital base, the Bank has, since 2009, allocated a dedicated portion of its annual budget to TA activities, with a strategic focus on leveraging these resources to co-finance and mobilize external grant funding from bilateral and multilateral development partners.

Within this framework, the Bank has continued to support initiatives of the ECO Secretariat, including activities related to monitoring international road transport conditions across the region and the organization of workshops aimed at facilitating intra-regional trade. The Bank also provided technical assistance for the preparation and publication of the ECO Economic Journal by the Economic Scientific Research Institute (ESRI) of the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, a flagship ECO publication offering in-depth analysis on socio-economic development trends, regional integration, and the economic potential of ECO member countries across key sectors such as

trade, investment, industry, energy, transport, infrastructure, technology and financial cooperation. The Journal reflects a shared commitment to promoting knowledge exchange, innovative solutions and policy dialogue for inclusive economic growth.

Further support was approved for the ECO Secretariat's request to organize a regional Workshop on Border Crossing Facilitation and Best Practices, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The workshop provided a platform for ECO member countries to exchange experiences and best practices in border management and facilitation.

Under its TA framework, the Bank also approved support for the Trade Connect Central Asia+ (TCCA+) Programme launched by the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation. The programme seeks to promote inclusive economic growth, strengthen regional economic cooperation, and enhance trade linkages among participating countries in Central Asia+ and with global markets, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Technical assistance support was further extended to Afghanistan in response to a formal request through the Islamic Banking and Finance Training Programme, held from 15–19 November 2025. The programme was jointly organised by the Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB) to strengthen institutional capacity in Islamic finance and support the development of Afghanistan's financial sector. The training covered key areas including Islamic banking fundamentals, Shariah governance, risk management, Sukuk structuring, Islamic monetary policy, and the conversion of conventional banking systems to Islamic banking.

In addition, on 09 October 2025, the Board of Directors of the ETDB approved the Secretariat's request for technical assistance for the fourth phase of the ECO–UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project. The project aims to enhance regional and international trade by strengthening the quality infrastructure of ECO member states, reducing technical barriers to trade, and promoting alignment with international standards. It supports the development of quality systems in key sectors, including food, beverages and agricultural products, thereby contributing to increased trade volumes and improved economic welfare across the region.

Going forward, the Bank remains committed to considering technical assistance requests in cooperation with development partners, while further strengthening its expertise and resource base to expand the scope and impact of its TA activities in the coming years.

5. Risk Management

In line with its developmental mandate, the Bank continued to strengthen its Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework in 2025, ensuring alignment with international best practices while safeguarding financial stability and institutional reputation. The ERM framework is supported by strong oversight from the Board of Directors and senior management, and is implemented through robust risk identification, assessment, monitoring and reporting processes led by the Risk Management and Compliance functions. The independent audit function provides further assurance through objective reviews of risk governance and control mechanisms, reinforcing accountability and transparency.

Consistent with its prudent lending approach, risk management remains a core pillar of the Bank's long-term strategy. In 2025, particular emphasis was placed on the management of credit risk in lending operations, market and liquidity risk in treasury activities, and operational and compliance risks across all functions.

The Risk Management Department (RMD) plays a central role in assessing credit proposals, refining internal risk rating and loan loss provisioning methodologies, monitoring portfolio performance, and ensuring compliance with established policies and limits. The Department continued to apply a data-driven approach to credit risk assessment through its internal credit rating system, which evaluates borrowers using both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

During the year, key enhancements included strengthened dynamic risk scoring supported by updated financial covenants, improved early warning systems through continuous monitoring of obligors' financial conditions, and further refinement of the expected credit loss (ECL) provisioning methodology. As a result, the weighted average internal credit rating of the Bank's loan portfolio stood at 2.3 as end of 2025 (2024: 2.1; 2023: 2.7) on a 1–10 scale, where 1 represents the lowest risk.

In line with IFRS 9 requirements, the Bank's loan portfolio is classified into three stages, with provisioning levels adjusted according to changes in credit risk and repayment performance. As of 31 December 2025, in line with the Credit Risk Provisioning Policy of ETDB (as amended in accordance with IFRS 9 and approved by the Board of Directors on 27 June 2018), the Bank ensures that adequate loss allowances are maintained for expected credit losses arising from possible default events and credit deterioration over the expected life of financial instruments in both the loan and treasury portfolios.

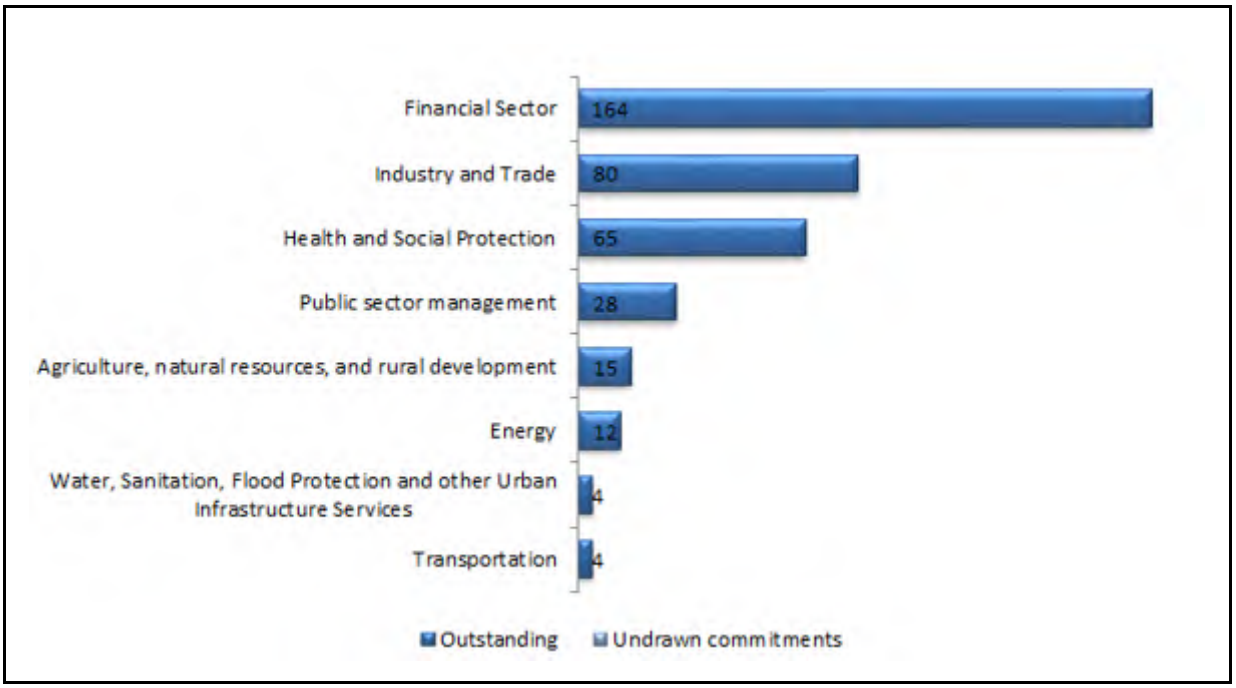
The RMD is responsible for presenting the results of its assessments to the Credit Committee at each reporting date. Accordingly, RMD conducted its assessment for the financial period ended 31 December 2025. During the period, the Bank had 26 clients (31 December 2024: 22) with an outstanding exposure of SDR 523.5 million (31 December 2024: SDR 496.4 million). Financial instruments with internal credit ratings ranging from 1.00 to 3.40 are considered to have low credit risk and are therefore exempt from a detailed credit deterioration assessment.

As of 31 December 2025, 10 clients (31 December 2024: 14) were classified within this low-risk category with an internal credit rating below 3.40. For the remaining 16 clients (31 December 2024: 8), RMD performed credit risk assessments and determined that none of the clients exhibited a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition.

As of the reporting date, no client had repayment delays exceeding 90 days; therefore, no exposures were classified under Stage III. However, one client was classified under Stage II due to overdue payments between 30 and 90 days. For this exposure, an impairment allowance of SDR 4.37 million has been maintained against an outstanding balance of SDR 6.18 million. As a result, the total expected credit loss (ECL) allowance amounted to SDR 3,962,248 (31 December 2024: SDR 5,680,190).

The Bank's portfolio remains well diversified, with no material concentration risks. The financial sector accounted for 44% of the portfolio (2024: 35%; 2023: 38%), reflecting the Bank's strategic focus on strengthening financial institutions and supporting SME and trade finance activities. The Industry and Trade sector represented 22%, contributing to broader economic diversification objectives. The Corporate and Project Finance portfolio remained within policy limits and primarily consisted of short-term, sovereign-backed exposures.

Figure 12: Breakdown of outstanding loans by sectors-2025



6. Project Implementation and Monitoring

The Bank's Project Implementation and Monitoring Department (PIMD) follows three separate functions related to operations: Environment, Procurement, and Implementation Monitoring of projects. The combination role of project implementation and monitoring is to provide effective measures to improve the results.

Project implementation and monitoring focuses on administration operations, including registering and recording the progress of an operation in the operations database which regular updates by the operations team on a timely basis. The department makes recommendations during the initial phase on issues related to the conduct of the operation and monitoring, including relevant agreements and the development of key indicators for monitoring and reporting purposes. During 2025, the department succeeded in further monitoring the implementation of operations and updating the database of credit operations to include disbursement and repayment transactions of operations.

The Bank continued to prepare regular supervision and monitoring reports for various projects in order to monitor compliance with covenants and other major conditions of

the loan agreement. In addition, regular exception reports have been prepared to document non-compliance with loan agreements. In this respect, business proposals relating to various stages of operation cycle are reviewed by the relevant department and necessary inputs including collateral arrangement are proposed to safeguard the interest of the Bank. In addition, as part of overall function of monitoring of operations, attention was paid to the disbursements and reimbursements of funds while operations' securities were checked and updated.

The Credit Committee, as per the financial policies of the Bank, is the relevant body to discuss the credit related issues. The PIMD has the role of the Credit Committee's Secretary. In 2025, fifteen Credit Committee meetings with 33 Resolution of Decisions were convened to discuss various credit proposals. Afterwards, the accepted credit proposals are submitted for the final decision of the BoDs.

The objective of procurement function is to assure that funds allocated to operations are expended solely for the purpose of achieving operations' objectives in an efficient, economical, fair, and transparent manner. In this respect, the Bank has oversight role in procurement planning and processes performed by the clients to procure goods, works, and services through competitive means as well as procurement contract administration. The Bank's procurement policy applies to all contracts funded in whole or in part by bank loans to both public and private clients. The Bank's authority in this regard is mandated by the Lending Agreement that governs the roles and responsibilities of clients and the Bank.

The environment function assures that operations are implemented according to internationally recognized standards of environmental regulations and principles in order to promote environmental soundness and sustainable development in the bank's member countries. The objective is to ensure that the operations do not add to existing pollution and favour the use of cleaner technologies and renewable resources, waste reduction, and resource recovery and recycling practices. This is reflected in the Bank's selection of projects to finance in wind and solar energies, irrigation, and wastewater treatment which are all classified as categories of projects in climate change prevention classification of United Nations under Climate Finance. Transactions involving goods mentioned in the ETDB's Negative List of Goods (including the Bank's Environmental Exclusion List) are excluded from financing.

The Bank's environmental mission aims to integrate environmental concerns into its operations and provide environmentally clean technologies cost-effectively. It supports projects with regional cooperation and development impact, promoting increased trade and investment. The Bank encourages clients to promote energy efficiency, ensuring projects are environmentally friendly. It focuses on preserving natural conditions and pollution prevention, particularly in the ECO region. The Bank is committed to global issues like climate change, ozone layer depletion, and biodiversity. It also aims to contribute to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in projects financed through financial intermediaries. The Bank mandates member states to meet

national environmental standards, applying internationally if necessary. If standards are insufficient, an Environmental Action Plan will be proposed for corrective measures.

(i) Climate Finance

The Bank since its establishment, allocated the following financial facilities towards renewable energy projects including:

- DG Khan Cement, establishment of a waste heat recovery plant in the manufacturing plant of the company in Pakistan in 2011 with the amount of USD 20.98 Million,
- Zorlu Energy wind power plant in Pakistan, the project involves the construction, erection and operation of a 56.4 MV wind Power plant with the amount of USD 18.55 Million in 2012
- Harappa Solar Project, establishment of 18 MV solar power plant in Pakistan with the amount of USD 8.35 Million in 2017,
- Ulu wind power plant project, renewable energy production by establishment of 120 MV wind power plant in Bursa, Türkiye in 2021 with the amount of EUR 25 Million.
- Soft loan for flood relief, rehabilitation and preparedness for rehabilitation diversion tunnels of Mohmand Dam, Pakistan 2025 with the amount of USD 20 Million.

(ii) Sustainable Projects

The Bank financed several projects focused on sustainable agriculture, water management and sustainable transportation as follows:

- Project finance loan to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality for the Yenikapı-Taksim Metro Project in Türkiye with an amount of USD 35 Million in 2010,
- Shahriar wastewater treatment plant in Iran, which provided financial facility of EUR 17.80 Million in 2010 to build a wastewater treatment plant, the plant covers 180,000 of the area population,
- Siazakh irrigation system, the purpose of the project is to finance the procurement of equipment of an irrigation system in Iran to provide agriculture water requirement for land use in total area of 20,000 hectares for agriculture purposes, the amount of finance was EUR 16.89 Million in 2012,

For ensuring sustainability provision in all its operations, ETDB implements the “Negative List of Products Policy” which strictly prohibits the financing of operations that facilitate dealing in goods and services that pose a threat to health and safety of humans, other species, or the environment in general. In application of this policy statement, the Bank has produced a list, which should be regarded as restricted goods and services that it specifically excludes from financing in all its operations. In this context, such goods and services that pose a threat to health and safety, security, or

present an intrinsic risk for the environment are specifically excluded from Bank financing.

7. Financial Control

In accordance with the Bank's organizational structure, the Financial Control Department is assigned the pivotal role of managing and overseeing all financial transactions. Every movement of funds—both inflows and outflows—is monitored with precision and integrity. Key responsibilities include:

- Monitoring & Control: Supervised tracking of fund transfers across Bank accounts is maintained to ensure strict adherence to internal policies.
- Support Functions: The department is designated as the primary support for business units such as Banking & Non-Banking Financial Institutions and Corporate & Project Financing, with loan disbursement and administration managed accordingly, while back-office support is provided to the Treasury Department.
- Reconciliation & Settlement: Daily reconciliations of "Nostro" accounts are performed, and the settlement of share capital contributions from member states is arranged efficiently, with cash-flow management overseen on the basis of real-time data.
- Technical and Policy Input: Input for the policies and procedures, and technical details as required are provided, thereby assisting in the preparation of accurate and timely financial reports and in providing audit confirmations for clients and correspondent banks.
- Transactional Excellence: All accounting entries—whether related to personnel payments, administrative expenses, treasury, or loan operations—are executed in strict compliance with the Bank's policies and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

These functions, which are integral to safeguarding the Bank's financial integrity, are executed in close coordination with various internal departments and external stakeholders. For optimal efficiency, the department's functions are grouped as follows:

- Loan Disbursement & Administration: This covers the disbursement and repayment of operations of Corporate & Project Financing and Banking & Non-Banking Financial Institutions Departments. It encompasses the preparation of repayment schedules in accordance with the terms stipulated in loan agreements.
- Treasury Operations: Daily reconciliations of "Nostro" accounts are executed and oversight of treasury transactions is ensured, with particular emphasis on mitigating settlement risks and controlling associated costs.

- Financial Accounting: This covers the monitoring of cash-flow and management of interbank transactions with the objective that all administrative and personnel payments are made accurately and in a timely manner.

Several strategic objectives have been defined for 2026 to advance the department's contributions:

1. Strengthening Correspondent Banking Relations
2. Efforts will be intensified to resolve challenges through coordinated actions with relevant departments
3. Finalization of Loan Disbursement Handbook Development
4. A comprehensive review of current policies, and procedures will be conducted. Targeted revisions are to be proposed to ensure alignment with evolving financial regulations and the incorporation of international best practices.

The strategic objectives outlined for 2026 demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and operational excellence. Enhancements in correspondent banking arrangements and review of internal policies are anticipated to contribute significantly to financial efficiency and risk mitigation. This approach will also ensure that high standards of financial control are maintained.

8. Information Technology (IT) Services

The Information Technology (IT) Department developed and maintained an internal network of desktop workstations, laptops, digital office equipment, networking equipment, operating systems and servers in conjunction with the Bank's business requirements.

IT Department maintained an array of financial business systems including SAP, Refinitiv Reuters, SWIFT and financial portal on Intranet with SQL Database support. IT Department also provided a helpdesk function for assistance to all ETDB staff with their use of MS Office Professional and other related software as well as the printers and photocopiers. Besides the software support, this helpdesk support additionally covered connection problems, password reset, file services, printer services, internet services, email services, telephony services, on-line virtual meeting platforms and remote office access for all staff members, etc.

Regarding management of the IT Systems at ETDB, 26 servers (including virtual servers) located in the IT Systems room with the following functionalities to be maintained on a routine basis:

- Exchange Server for mail services.
- File Server for users shared files.
- Virus updates and client & server security.
- Sharepoint Server for portal applications.
- SWIFT AutoClient Servers for local repository of SWIFT messages
- SAP as the Banking Application
- Firewall for securing the internet connection.

During 2025, the Bank's IT Department continued to strengthen its technological infrastructure across key areas, enhancing security, efficiency and digital service delivery.

Firstly, the legacy firewall infrastructure was replaced with a new-generation system featuring Law No. 5651-compliant logging capabilities for internet access and integrated Virtual Private Network (VPN) functionality. The upgraded solution has significantly improved the security, stability and remote connectivity of staff access to the Bank's internal systems.

Secondly, the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) was successfully brought into full operation. Following system testing, the IT Department developed new digital forms, delivered user training sessions and enhanced overall user experience, contributing to the Bank's broader objective of transitioning towards a paperless working environment.

Finally, the Bank initiated a comprehensive website renewal project. In collaboration with a dedicated working group, requirements gathering and design activities were completed, resulting in a draft version of the new website. Final content refinement is expected to be completed in 2026, after which the project will proceed to the implementation and go-live phase.

The Bank's IT Department will continue to enhance its technological infrastructure to better support business operations and further integrate digital solutions into core processes across key areas.

The existing wireless network infrastructure is expected to be replaced in order to improve performance standards. The planned upgrade will further improve both coverage and security of the Bank's wireless connectivity.

Preventive maintenance of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems is also planned. Given that these systems underpin the Bank's entire IT and operational infrastructure, therefore, their maintenance will be critical to ensuring business continuity and operational resilience.

The IT Department will support the go-live of the new ETDB website, working closely with relevant internal teams to ensure a smooth transition. The upgraded platform is expected to provide a modern, responsive user interface compatible with multiple browsers and devices, thereby improving user experience and accessibility.

The Bank also plans to replace its existing PBX telephony system. The upgrade will introduce a modern communications solution supported by new desk phone infrastructure, enhancing the reliability and efficiency of internal and external communications.

9. Internal Audit function

The Internal Audit Department (IAD) is an independent and objective assurance and advisory function established under the Bank's Organizational Structure Policy (approved in 2007). IAD operates in accordance with the Global Internal Audit Standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Bank's Internal Audit Charter.

In alignment with the COSO Internal Control – Integrated Framework, IAD's primary objective is to enhance and protect organizational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance on the effectiveness of Corporate Governance Processes, Risk Management Practices & Internal Control Systems. Additionally, IAD supports Management and the Audit Committee (AC) by evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal controls, promoting a strong control environment and ethical culture, assessing compliance with approved policies, procedures, and the Credit Operations Manual (COM) and providing advisory services to strengthen controls and align practices with industry standards.

During the audit year 2024–2025, IAD executed its responsibilities in line with the approved Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) Plan, consistent with COSO components of Risk Assessment, Control Activities, and Monitoring. Key activities included, development and implementation of the RBIA Plan based on risk prioritization, execution of audit engagements to assess compliance with internal policies and procedures, adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls, alignment of operations with business objectives, conduct fieldwork and testing of key control points, identification of control gaps and associated risks, issuance of audit reports along with actionable recommendations, follow-up reviews to assess implementation of agreed corrective actions and regular reporting and engagement with the Audit Committee (AC) on audit outcomes.

During the year, IAD completed audits of the following areas:

- Financial Control Department (FCD);
- Project Implementation & Monitoring Department (PIMD);
- Terms of Reference and Working Procedures of the Credit Committee (CC);
- Representative Offices (Karachi and Tehran);
- Follow-up reviews of previously issued audit reports.

Based on the audit of the above areas, outcomes included identification of control weaknesses and process inefficiencies, where applicable, recommendations to strengthen internal controls and risk mitigation measures, enhanced oversight through systematic follow-up on audit findings, and improved alignment of operational processes with governance and compliance requirements.

IAD maintained continuous engagement with the Audit Committee throughout the audit year, including presentation and discussion of audit reports and key findings, updates on implementation status of audit recommendations and input on control and governance related improvements. This ongoing interaction supports the Monitoring

Activities component of the COSO framework and strengthens oversight effectiveness.

IAD's future plans will continue to be driven by the Risk-Based Internal Audit Plan, developed annually in consultation with Management and the Audit Committee. Key priorities of the plan will include, risk-based audit coverage of high-impact and emerging risk areas, continuous evaluation of internal controls and governance processes, strengthening of audit methodologies and control testing procedures, ongoing follow-up of prior audit findings to ensure timely implementation and enhanced advisory support to improve the overall control environment

10. Compliance function

The Bank is committed to safeguarding its reputation through the implementation of robust compliance, integrity and corporate governance standards across all operations. As an international financial institution investing in enterprises and financial institutions across member countries, the Bank upholds high ethical standards both internally and in its external engagements. In this context, comprehensive Know-Your-Customer (KYC) procedures are applied to counterparties, including the assessment of ownership structures, governance arrangements, business practices, and compliance with national and international standards on anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). All operations are subject to extensive due diligence covering legal, environmental, social, procurement and development impact dimensions to ensure consistency with the Bank's mandate and internal policies.

The Bank's compliance framework is governed by a risk-based approach, under which compliance risk is defined as the risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, financial loss, or reputational damage arising from non-compliance with applicable regulations, internal policies, or international best practices. Operational risk is defined as the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people, systems or external events, including legal risk but excluding strategic and reputational risks.

As part of its overall risk management framework, the Bank defines compliance risk as the risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, significant financial loss, or reputational damage arising from failure to adhere to applicable regulations, the Bank's policies and procedures, and relevant international best practices. Operational risk is defined as the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people, systems, or external events. This definition includes legal risk but excludes strategic and reputational risks. The Policy and Compliance Department (PCD), in accordance with the Compliance Charter approved by the Board of Directors, supports Management in identifying, assessing and managing compliance risks and potential conflicts of interest. The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) complements this function by addressing legal risks in credit operations, including ownership structures and ultimate beneficial ownership analysis, thereby safeguarding the Bank's legal and financial interests.

The Bank continues to strengthen its internal regulatory framework in line with international best practices. During the reporting period, several key policies and procedures were introduced or updated, covering risk management, governance arrangements, treasury, human resources, IT operations, procurement processes, thereby enhancing operational efficiency, risk control and institutional governance. In

addition, the Bank has made notable progress in defining and implementing departmental objectives to enhance planning and management processes in alignment with the business plan and approved budget targets.

The Bank does not engage in retail or commercial banking activities, with its operations limited to development finance and trade-related transactions. Accordingly, AML/CFT, anti-corruption and sanctions compliance requirements are implemented through dedicated policies and procedures, including the Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Money Laundering Policy approved by the Board of Directors, in line with internationally accepted standards. In 2025, an AML/CFT training programme for staff was delivered in cooperation with the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Pakistan. The programme enhanced awareness of financial crime risks and reinforced alignment with international compliance standards.

A risk-based due diligence framework is applied to all counterparties and transactions, with enhanced scrutiny for higher-risk cases. Business units are responsible for identifying integrity risks at the client and transaction level, while the PCD provides independent second-line oversight, guidance and review. The Bank also utilises a range of information sources, including official registries, sanctions databases, compliance screening tools and open-source intelligence, to support risk assessment processes.

The Bank's current loan portfolio primarily comprises exposures to sovereigns, financial institutions and existing clients, which are generally considered low-risk and transparent counterparties. In 2025, ETDB completed 17 loan transactions with 11 clients, including two public sector sovereign exposures and nine financial institutions, disbursing a total of SDR 228 million. The Bank applies robust due diligence procedures, requiring comprehensive assessments of clients and other key project parties to identify any exposure to entities, goods or individuals that may present a risk. These processes are designed to mitigate the risk of breaching applicable international sanctions regimes and regulations related to restricted goods and merchandise. The PCD also provides support in securing necessary licences and permits, where required, to ensure full compliance with operational requirements.

In 2025, all loan operations were conducted with clients with whom the Bank already had established relationships, except for one new financial institution operating in a regulated and supervised sector. For this institution, ETDB conducted the necessary due diligence assessment in line with its internal policies and procedures. The Credit Committee reviewed key evaluations prepared by the Banking, Risk, Financial Analysis, Legal, Compliance, and Environment and Procurement Departments. Public sector disbursements included a new concessional loan for flood recovery and financing for the import of energy-related raw materials. Six financial institutions received funding for SME finance operations, while others were provided with trade finance facilities. These operations, extended through financial intermediaries, are aligned with ETDB's trade finance strategy to support regional trade, comply with the Bank's Negative List of Products (including the Environmental Exclusion List), and adhere to the SME definition.

Complaints related to prohibited practices are addressed through established channels, with all cases subject to prompt review and appropriate action. In 2025, the

Bank did not receive any complaints related to its operations. Ongoing monitoring and supervision of the loan portfolio support the effective assessment of operational risk profiles and potential material exposures to loss. In addition, the Bank's New Product Approval Policy provides a comprehensive and systematic framework for the introduction and management of new products. In particular, the Bank is strengthening its institutional capacity to further expand and diversify its Islamic finance products, while enhancing the supporting implementation frameworks.

The Bank places strong emphasis on staff integrity and prevention of conflicts of interest. The Code of Conduct, Corporate Governance Policy and Staff Regulations define the ethical standards expected of all employees. Staff are required to submit annual declarations confirming the absence of conflicts of interest, and any allegations of misconduct are subject to formal investigation under established disciplinary procedures. Under the direction of the President, the PCD is responsible for conducting investigations into prohibited practices and misconduct. During 2025, no investigations were initiated, as no incidents or subjects requiring investigation were reported.

The Bank maintains a low tolerance for breaches of integrity standards and applies strong internal controls, including segregation of duties and the "four-eyes principle". Departmental heads remain responsible for ensuring effective implementation of controls within their respective areas, supported by business continuity arrangements and insurance coverage to mitigate operational risks.

The PCD also supports the strengthening of correspondent banking relationships, SWIFT compliance standards, sanctions screening processes and regulatory re-attestation requirements. It participates as an observer in key governance bodies, including the Management Committee, ALCO and Credit Committee, and contributes to procurement oversight through the Purchasing Review Committee, ensuring transparency, competitiveness and mitigation of fraud and corruption risks.

11. External Auditors

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Board of Directors and subsequent approval by the Board of Governors, qualified external auditors of international repute, registered in a member country, are appointed to audit the Bank's affairs and report their findings to the Board of Directors. For the 2025 audit, the Bank engaged Güney Bağımsız Denetim ve Serbest Muhasebeci Mali Müşavirlik Anonim Şirketi, a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

The external auditors provide a signed auditors' opinion on the truth and fairness of the Bank's financial statements. The appointment or discharge of the external auditors is recommended and their performance is reviewed by the Audit Committee.

At the conclusion of the annual audit, should the external auditors identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls, they issue a management letter addressed to the Bank's management. This letter details the auditors' observations and provides recommendations aimed at strengthening the control environment. The management letter is thoroughly reviewed and discussed with the Audit Committee to ensure appropriate follow-up actions.

12. Membership to the Bank

Membership expansion remained a key strategic priority for the Bank during the reporting period. In line with the provisions of its Articles of Agreement, which make membership open to all Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states, the Bank continued its efforts to broaden regional participation and strengthen its institutional reach. Guided by the New Membership Principles and in close coordination with the ECO Secretariat, the Bank pursued targeted outreach and engagement activities to facilitate the accession of prospective members. These efforts resulted in the accession of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, further enhancing the Bank's regional representation and expanding its membership to a majority of ECO member states.

The remaining ECO member states—Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—are expected to join the Bank in the coming period. To support this objective, the Bank, in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat, continued its engagement through formal communications and high-level consultations aimed at promoting the benefits of membership and the Bank's contribution to regional trade, investment and sustainable economic development. This agenda was further reinforced through regional platforms, including the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Trade held in June 2025 and the 17th ECO Summit hosted by Azerbaijan on 3–4 July 2025, which provided important opportunities to highlight the strategic importance of membership expansion and regional ownership of the Bank.

The ECO Secretary General also participated in the 24th Annual Meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors, held in Istanbul on 11 July 2025, where he reaffirmed ECO's support for expanding the Bank's membership base. During bilateral discussions, the President of the Bank and the ECO Secretary General further exchanged views on advancing the membership enlargement agenda.

Going forward, expanding membership across ECO countries and addressing diverse development needs through tailored development finance solutions will remain a key priority for the Bank. The Bank will continue to maintain close communication with interested ECO member states, providing timely information, technical guidance and clarifications on membership-related matters to facilitate accession processes. As the membership base expands, additional opportunities are expected to emerge to support projects that advance regional integration and enhance intra-regional trade. In light of ongoing engagements with prospective members and continued coordination with the ECO Secretariat, ETDB anticipates steady progress in further expanding its membership in the period ahead.

13. International Relations

In 2025, the Bank continued to actively strengthen its institutional relations with member states, international organizations, and the business community.

To enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, the Bank hosted the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Dr. Asad M. Khan, at the Bank's headquarters in Istanbul on 30 January 2025. Discussions focused on expanding ETDB's membership to include Kazakhstan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, enhancing financing opportunities for regional trade, connectivity, and infrastructure development, as well as the Bank's role in providing technical assistance to ECO's projects.

The Bank maintained close liaison with the ECO Secretariat through active participation in key ministerial and intergovernmental meetings throughout the year.

On 2 June 2025, the President participated in the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held in Tehran, Iran, chaired by H.E. Farzaneh Sadegh, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development. The meeting convened under the theme "Improving the Sustainability of Transport in Light of Regional Integration" and brought together transport ministers and senior officials from ECO Member States. On the sidelines of the meeting, the President held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Farzaneh Sadegh to discuss avenues for enhancing the Bank's role in regional development.

On 2 July 2025, the President participated in the 6th ECO Business Forum, held in Shusha, Azerbaijan, jointly organized by the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, AZPROMO, the ECO Secretariat, and the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry Confederation. The Forum contributed to advancing investment and trade activities within the ECO region, enhancing cooperation among business leaders, and supporting sustainable economic development. On the sidelines of the Forum, the President held bilateral meetings with the First Vice President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), the President of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA), and representatives from various chambers of commerce and business circles across ECO member states.

The Bank's delegation, comprising the President and Vice President Finance participated in the 41st Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held on 3 November 2025 in Istanbul. The session convened under the theme "Developing and Improving Export Strategies in OIC Member Countries" and brought together ministers, senior officials, and representatives from nearly 50 nations and 26 international institutions. On the sidelines of the session, the President held bilateral meetings with H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Chairman and President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, and H.E. Mr. Adeeb Y. Al Aama, CEO of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation in support of sustainable and inclusive economic growth across member countries.

The Bank's delegation also attended the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, held from 24 to 26 November 2025 in Istanbul. The President delivered a statement highlighting the Bank's role as an international financial institution in advancing development projects, trade, and prosperity across the ECO region, and held bilateral meetings with ECO member state delegations to discuss regional development and cooperation.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the President held a bilateral meeting on 28 November 2025 in Istanbul with H.E. Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister of Communication of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The President briefed the Minister on the Bank's latest operations

and activities in Pakistan and reaffirmed ETDB's full support for the country's development needs.

In order to create and maintain a favorable public opinion, the Bank continued its close cooperation particularly with business organizations operating in the ECO region. It also maintained effective relations with the media, issuing regular press releases on its activities. The Bank's website remains a valuable tool for raising awareness of its role and operations both in member countries and internationally.

14. Human Resources

Human capital remains at the core of the Bank's strategic ambitions. In 2025, the Human Resources Department continued to implement international best practices to foster a high-performing, motivated, and diverse workforce. The Bank remains committed to ensuring a fair and inclusive working environment while aligning human resources policies with the institution's broader mission and regulatory compliance.

The HR framework remained focused on four pillars: transparent and merit-based recruitment process, competitive and equitable remuneration, structured performance management system, and robust learning and development opportunities. These pillars continue to guide all HR functions and decision-making processes.

The Bank sustained its commitment to hiring high-calibre professionals, prioritizing candidates from member countries while ensuring the principle of merit prevails. Recruitment efforts were bolstered by the introduction of structured competency-based interviews and expanded outreach through targeted job platforms.

By the end of 2025, the Bank had 29 staff members from 3 member countries including, 3 members of the Management, 18 professional staff, and 8 general service staff.

Compensation and benefits constitute the very basic pillar of human resources management. The Bank strives to offer a competitive compensation and benefit scheme including comprehensive medical and life insurance plans. Recognizing the significance of a robust compensation framework, the Bank continued to review its remuneration system and benefit system to maintain competitiveness. The Bank operates a pension plan comprised of; first pillar which is a fully funded defined benefit scheme, second pillar which is a matched defined contribution scheme and third pillar which is a fully staff funded scheme.

The Bank adopts a performance management system in order to improve the performances of the Bank and the employees. The appraisal process provides consistent and fair means of appraising performance, and it is also a step in assessing future potential of the personnel. In this way, employees are assisted in planning their own career development.

The Bank considers the professional development of its employees as a necessary condition for fulfilling its mandate and achieving its institutional goals. In this regard, training plays a vital role in aligning employees with their respective job descriptions, maintaining a high level of professionalism and skills, and enhancing employee productivity. For this purpose, the Bank has established a cooperation agreement with the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Pakistan. Training programs have been organized with the participation of all employees.

Looking ahead, the Human Resources Department remains committed to evolving as a strategic enabler of the Bank's vision. The key objectives for 2026 include: (i) Enhancing training programs to address evolving skill requirements and promote career advancement opportunities. (ii) Launching initiatives to enhance employee engagement and satisfaction, such as team-building activities. (iii) Staying up to date with changes in labour laws and regulations to ensure continuous compliance and mitigate legal risks, while also keeping track of the latest developments in the human resources field and bringing the best HR practices into the Bank. (iv) Selecting and onboarding the best-fit candidates for the positions within the Bank.

By pursuing these objectives, Human Resources Department aim to further elevate the human resources function as a strategic partner in driving organizational success and fostering a culture of excellence.

15. Planning and Budgeting

The Bank's planning and budgeting processes are conducted in accordance with the policies approved by the Board of Directors and guided by the medium-term strategy outlined in the Business Plan, which is endorsed by the Board of Governors. The Business Plan, comprising the Bank's strategic, operational, and financial frameworks, is further detailed at the country level through respective Country Partnership Strategy reports, and implemented via annual budgets. The annual budget document, which includes short-term strategies, operational targets, work programs, and associated financial projections, requires approval by the Board of Directors.

In pursuing its operational mandate, the Bank adheres to strict budgetary discipline to ensure the efficient utilization of its limited resources. The Bank's financial management is founded on principles that include financial viability, market and performance orientation, comprehensive risk management, transparency, accountability, and sound corporate governance.

Financial viability guarantees that the Bank can sustain the effective implementation of its mandate without compromising its capital base, while also progressing towards self-sufficiency to meet increasing financing demands. In line with these objectives, the Bank continuously endeavors to enhance productivity through stringent budgetary control.

The Bank's corporate governance framework is supported by robust financial and management information reporting systems. Its financial statements aim to provide comprehensive insights into the risks and performance of its activities, adhering to industry best practices. The Bank's financial statements, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), are presented in the Annual Report, which, pursuant to Article 26 of the Establishing Agreement, is submitted to member states and the ECO Secretariat.

An integrated accounting, budgeting, and reporting system underpins the efficient execution of financial and management reporting processes. The implementation of the Annual Budget is continuously monitored, with periodic reporting provided to Senior Management and the Board of Directors. The Bank also maintains a Management Information System designed to support internal operations by furnishing detailed financial and managerial data. Ongoing analyses of operations, revenues, and cost-effectiveness inform decision-making, performance reporting, monitoring, and internal

controls. Furthermore, key monitoring tools and a robust performance measurement and control mechanism have been established to ensure effective oversight.

The Financial Reporting and Budget Department (FRB) is responsible for the financial and management information reporting of the Bank, as well as for the preparation, execution, and ongoing monitoring of the annual budgets. Throughout 2025, the FRB managed the annual budget cycle in parallel with preparations for the 2026 budget, ensuring that the Bank's financial performance was continuously tracked and reported to Senior Management and the Board of Directors.

A corporate Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) solution is now fully operational, strengthening the Bank's financial management framework and enhancing decision-making and resource allocation.

In 2026, the FRB will continue its efforts to leverage this FP&A platform to streamline budgeting, planning, forecasting, scenario analysis, and reporting processes. The system will enable the generation of interactive dashboards and detailed reports, providing actionable insights into the Bank's operations, revenue streams, cost structures, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

16. Administrative Services

Administrative Services Department (AS) continued its supportive and key role in significant areas during 2025 such as procurement of required goods and services in timely and cost effective manner, maintenance of the Bank's assets as well as other support services and daily admin activities.

In 2025, alongside routine procurement activities, major tenders covered staff health and life insurance renewals, the appointment of a credit rating agency for national credit rating services, venue services for the 2025 Annual Board of Governors Meeting, and the procurement of Microsoft licences, including Active Directory and Exchange Server solutions. All processes were carried out through the relevant panels and committees and completed in accordance with the Bank's policies and procedures.

In 2025, the AS provided logistical and administrative support for meetings of the Board of Governors, Board of Directors and Audit Committee, as well as for selected key institutional events, including capacity-building programmes.

Throughout the year, the Administrative Services function supported the effective functioning of the Bank by ensuring the timely management of key service contracts and providing continued support to the Bank's Representative Offices in Tehran and Karachi on administrative matters. In addition, the Department contributed to institutional planning through the preparation of the following year's budget in coordination with the Financial Reporting Department and ensured the effective operation of the SAP Materials Management (MM) module.

Going forward, the AS Department will continue to support the Bank's operational efficiency through the effective delivery of core administrative services and coordination functions.

17. The Representative Offices

The Bank's Representative Offices in Karachi (Pakistan) and Tehran (Iran) serve as local liaison and coordination platforms supporting the implementation of the Bank's mandate in member countries. While they do not hold transaction or credit approval authority, they play a key facilitation role in strengthening cooperation with national authorities, financial institutions, development partners and other stakeholders. The Iran Representative Office, in particular, maintains regular communication with key national and regional stakeholders, including the ECO Secretariat based in Tehran.

The Offices support the Head Office and business departments in identifying credible counterparties and bankable projects, while contributing to market intelligence through regular monitoring and reporting of economic, financial and regulatory developments. Monthly updates and analytical inputs are submitted to Head Office to ensure timely awareness of country-specific trends and risks.

Through continuous engagement with government institutions, central banks, financial institutions and international organisations, the Offices facilitate operational coordination, including project monitoring, information exchange, and follow-up on approved transactions. They also contribute to strengthening institutional visibility by representing the Bank in relevant meetings, conferences and stakeholder engagements.

In 2025, the Representative Offices supported the implementation and monitoring of the Bank's operations in their respective countries, including facilitating repayment processes, strengthening institutional relationships, and supporting Head Office in business development activities. The Karachi Representative Office in particular contributed to the development and follow-up of key financing initiatives in Pakistan, including sovereign lending, trade finance facilities, and project finance operations, while also supporting engagement with multilateral development partners and participation in regional forums.

Looking ahead, the Representative Offices will continue to enhance their contribution to the Bank's strategic objectives by strengthening engagement with public and private sector counterparts, supporting the identification of new investment opportunities, and facilitating trade and investment flows across member countries. Key priorities will include expanding support for MSME financing, promoting green and sustainability-linked operations aligned with ESG principles, enhancing trade finance activities, and supporting the development of Shariah-compliant financial solutions. The Offices will also continue to contribute to effective coordination, operational follow-up and the implementation of the Bank's regional integration agenda across ECO member countries.

18. Board of Governors Meetings

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors was held on 11 July 2025 in Istanbul. At the meeting, the Board of Governors reviewed the performance of the Bank and approved the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements annexed to the Audit Report. The Board also appointed the Governor from Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the Chairman of the Board for a one-year term.

The meeting was honored by the presence of Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), who delivered a keynote speech highlighting the

need for deeper regional economic cooperation and greater visibility of the Bank among member states. In his speech, he emphasized ongoing efforts to improve the Bank's credit rating, expand its lending capacity, and bring in the four ECO member states who are not yet a member to the Bank.

19. Board of Directors Meetings

As the body responsible for the overall direction of the Bank’s operations, the Board of Directors held six formal meetings in 2025. In addition to these, nine urgent decisions were adopted through the “voting without meeting” procedure, in accordance with the Bank’s internal rules.

The Board addressed a comprehensive spectrum of policy, financial, and administrative matters during its deliberations, encompassing the determination of margin parameters for loan pricing, the establishment of credit limits governing trade, SME, and M-SME financing facilities, as well as the renewal of treasury counterparty limits. The Bank also received Board approval for six country partnership strategies which outlined tailored development financing frameworks for six member states, covering key areas such as M-SME financing, trade finance, and corporate and project finance.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1244

Priority: Normal
Date: 25/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith letter no. FPCCI/IF/ECO-CCI/2026 dated October 21, 2026, received from the Economic Cooperation Organization Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ECO CCI) pertaining to Activities of ECO-CCI for the year 2026.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of 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
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (ECO CCI)

Atif Ikram Sheikh
President

FPCCI/IF/ECO-CCI/2026
October 21, 2026

H.E. Amb. Dr. Asad M. Khan
Secretary General
ECO Secretariat
Tehran, Iran

Subject: **Activities of ECO-CCI for the year 2026**

Excellency!

Greetings from ECO-CCI & FPCCI!

Reference ECO Secretariat letter No; IR/2026/1160 dated October 13, 2026 on the above subject and would like to inform you that as per the Statute, the Secretariat of ECO-CCI handed over to Pakistan in March 2025 for three years period. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) had taken every step for making ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry an effective and vibrant body.

Since the inception, we are working for the long-term benefits related to economy, trade, investment, industry, business etc. and produces concrete projects in accordance to the mutual interest of member nations like harmonization of standards, removal of trade barriers, promotion of joint ventures, establishing strong connectivity and banking channels etc.

During the year, ECO-CCI regularly interacted with ECO Secretariat, ECO Trade and Development Bank and all Members Chambers of Commerce and Industry for seeking their input on various important subject i.e. Concept paper of ECOTA. ECO-CCI actively participated in an informal meeting of ECOTA with the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan and gave input for the concept paper of ECOTA. ECO-CCI is still working on the draft of ECOTA and ready to provide all possible assistance for the finalization of ECOTA.

ECO-CCI also submitted Suggestions on Modalities for ECO Transport Excellence Awards to ECO Secretariat and appreciated the decision taken in 11th ECO Ministerial Meeting to commend the performance and contribution of companies and stakeholders involved in Road, Railway, civil aviation and Maritime.

Moreover, ECO-CCI has created strong and significant linkages with the missions of ECO Members Countries in Pakistan and Pakistan's missions in ECO member Countries for organizing various activities and significant participations in ECO-CCI meetings by all member countries. As an outcome of these efforts, we had organized the following activities.

- **20th General Assembly and 30th Executive Committee Meeting**

The 20th General Assembly and 30th Executive Committee meeting of ECO-CCI was hosted by the FPCCI in Karachi, Pakistan on 22nd January 2026 (that was pending for the last three years) in conjunction with the 2nd edition of the Sustainable Tourism Forum jointly organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (an apex body of OIC) and FPCCI. The Representatives of the member Chambers as well as the Officials of the ECO Secretariat, ECO Trade and Development

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Atif Ikram Sheikh
President

Bank (ETDB), OIC Arbitration Center, diplomats of ECO countries and other stakeholders participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed several proposals for intensifying economic cooperation among ECO member countries through concrete and result-oriented initiatives, Strengthening the role of ECO CCI as the principal private-sector voice of the ECO region and enhancing intra-ECO trade, investment flows, logistics connectivity, tourism cooperation, SME integration and women entrepreneurship. The meeting also suggested the following measures related to specialized areas.

a) **Trade Facilitation**

Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures
Digital documentation and single-window systems
Strengthening banking channels and payment mechanisms

b) **Industry, Investment & SMES**

Promotion of joint ventures and cross-border industrial cooperation
Support mechanisms for SMEs including access to finance and markets
Technology transfer and skills development

c) **Transportation & Connectivity**

Development of regional transport corridors
Strengthening rail, road and multimodal connectivity
Improving logistics efficiency across ECO countries

d) **Tourism**

Joint tourism promotion
Visa facilitation
Investment in hospitality and tourism infrastructure

e) **Women Entrepreneurs**

Enhancing participation of women-led enterprises
Access to finance, training and regional markets
Dedicated platforms for women entrepreneurship

The Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings concluded with a positive note, reaffirming the collective resolve of ECO member countries to advance regional integration, private-sector collaboration and sustainable economic growth.

- **Signing of MoU with Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development**

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (ECO CCI)

Atif Ikram Sheikh
President

ECO-CCI and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) has signed an MoU for cooperation and holding of joint activities in Pakistan and significant participation from ECO Countries The collaborative activities include Sustainable Tourism Forum, Makkah Halal Forum, Sustainable Agriculture Forum, Digital Economy Forum, Best of Entrepreneurship Asia Series, B57 Plus Summit etc.

The MoU further agreed for establishing framework of cooperation in organizing joint trade missions, market research missions and industry exhibitions to promote the products and services of their respective member countries, while facilitating networking and business development opportunities.

- **Specialized Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI**

In pursuance of the decisions taken by ECO-CCI and with the mutual consent of member national chambers, a virtual meeting of the following specialized committees of ECO-CCI was organized held on 13th May 2026.

1- Trade Facilitation
2- Industry, Investment and SMEs
3- Tourism
4- Transportation
5- Women Entrepreneurs Council

The meeting attended by representatives of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of ECO member states, representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization Secretariat, business leaders, women entrepreneurs, and private-sector stakeholders from across the all ECO countries.

The participants emphasized the importance of revitalizing ECO-CCI through regular interaction among member chambers, exchange of views, and formulation of practical solutions/recommendations aimed at strengthening regional economic cooperation and private-sector engagement. The participants shared national experiences, sectoral challenges, ongoing initiatives, and proposals for enhancing economic cooperation and connectivity among eco member countries.

A representative of the ECO secretariat also delivered a comprehensive presentation on regional trade, transportation connectivity, transit arrangements, and visa facilitation mechanisms. The presentation highlighted the importance of effective implementation of regional agreements and stronger coordination among member states to achieve greater economic integration within the ECO region. The participants strongly emphasized the need for revival and operationalization of the Istanbul–Tehran-Islamabad container train /ECO train and other regional road and rail transport corridors. It was observed that improved connectivity would significantly reduce logistics costs, facilitate cross-border movement of goods, and promote intra-regional trade. The participants emphasized the need for removal of trade bottlenecks, simplification of customs procedures, improvement in border management systems, and enhancement of visa facilitation for business communities was strongly emphasized. The participants also discussed promotion of tourism, industrial cooperation, SME development, investment opportunities, and public-private partnerships as important pillars for sustainable regional economic growth.

During discussions on women entrepreneurship, representatives highlighted the importance of regular interaction among women business leaders of ECO member states. They recommended organizing dedicated exhibitions, trade fairs, networking forums, and capacity-building initiatives for

promotion of women-led businesses and strengthening regional cooperation among women entrepreneurs.

- **ECO-CCI Virtual Presidential Meeting**

The virtual meeting of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) was held on 12 August 2026 with the participation of Chairmen/Presidents or Vice/Deputy Chairmen/Presidents or representatives of the National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of all 10 Members countries of ECO-CCI. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President ECO-CCI & FPCCI and Amb Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the ECO Secretariat, also attended the meeting.

In his statement, the President ECO-CCI and highlighted the significance of the role of private sector as an engine of growth and assured continued support and cooperation of ECO-CCI to the ECO Secretariat in all initiatives. He highlighted the need for private sector to work in close liaison with their respective governments to advance trade integration and trade expansion agenda particularly to create networking opportunities. He underscored that ECO is working to build synergies among trade, transport and tourism and ECO's objective is to translate investment in connectivity and infrastructure into higher trade volumes and increased cross-border movement of goods, services and people. The Secretary General ECO Secretariat also updated house about the progress on the key agreements related to trade, industry, investment and transportation among ECO Countries.

During the meeting, all member countries emphasized on the need to transform ECO CCI from a platform for dialogue into a business-driven mechanism. He highlighted the significant economic potential of the ECO region and proposed greater focus on trade facilitation, connectivity, business mobility, investment, SMEs, women entrepreneurship and tourism. He particularly emphasized simplifying customs procedures, digitalizing trade documentation, developing a mechanism to identify trade bottlenecks, improving visa facilitation for businesspersons, and promoting the revival of the Istanbul–Tehran–Islamabad ECO Train and other regional road and rail corridors.

The participants also proposed development of regional ECO value chains, encouraging member countries to move beyond simply trading finished products and instead explore joint production and export opportunities in sectors such as agriculture and food processing, textiles, minerals, engineering, IT, energy and other areas of mutual interest.

- **Visit of the Secretary General ECO Secretariat at Islamabad**

The Secretary General of the ECO , Dr. Asad Majeed Khan visited FPCCI Office Islamabad to meet Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI, ECO-CCI and discussed the ECO activities, current geopolitical situation in the Middle East and analyzed its potential economic fallout on the ECO region.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh officially offered to establish the permanent Secretariat of ECO-CCI in Pakistan and informed the upcoming meeting of the ECO Executive Committee in the last quarter of 2026 (Virtual). He proposed to introduce special visa stickers for the business community to reduce travel barriers between ECO member countries and facilitate smooth cross-border trade.

The Secretary General Dr. Asad Majeed Khan pointed out that mutual trade among ECO countries remains significantly below its actual potential. He urged the regional business community to focus on building stronger professional networks. He emphasized that better coordination between member states is the only way to unlock the true economic power of the region.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (ECO CCI)

Atif Ikram Sheikh
President

- **Establishment of Permanent Secretariat of ECO-CCI**

After the completion of term of rotation of Secretariat of ECO-CCI, the establishment of permanent secretariat of ECO-CCI will be decided. In this connection, FPCCI has submitted its request to the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and ECO Secretariat for their support for establishing the permanent secretariat of ECO-CCI.

Best Regards,

ATIF IKRAM SHEIKH

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/1323

Priority: Normal
Date: 3/11/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith Note Verbal No. CECECO/375/2026 dated 3 November 2026 received from Economic Cooperation Organization Clean energy Center forwarding the Annual Report of CECECO for the period September 2025-October 2026.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

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Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Center

CECECO/375/2026

Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and with reference to the Secretariat's Note Verbale No. IR/2026/1160 dated 13 October 2026 has the honour to submit the Annual Report of CECECO for the period of September 2025-October 2026.

Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Center avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: 13 pages

IQTISADI ƏMƏKDAŞLIQ TƏŞKILATININ TƏMIZ ENERJI MƏRKƏZI
ECO CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

Baku, 3 November, 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization
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ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION
CLEAN ENERGY CENTRE
(CECECO)

ACTIVITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025 – OCTOBER 2026

1. Executive Summary

This report covers the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) from 9 September 2025 to 1 November 2026. During the reporting period, CECECO progressed from its initial institutional establishment to the implementation of a broader programme of regional cooperation, capacity building, knowledge exchange, youth engagement, and clean energy initiatives.

The reporting period included important institutional milestones. The first Meeting of the Board of Governors was held on 9 September 2025, the Host Country Agreement was signed on 2 December 2025 and approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 April 2026, and the first Meeting of the Executive Board was convened on 14 May 2026. These developments strengthened the legal, governance, and operational foundations of the Centre.

CECECO expanded its engagement with ECO Member States, national institutions, international organizations, development partners, academia, and the private sector. The Centre participated in regional and international events, including the IRENA Assembly, the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum, the Regional Ecological Summit 2026, Baku Energy Week, the World Urban Forum, and Baku Climate Action Week. It also strengthened cooperation within the UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC).

During the year, CECECO signed Memoranda of Understanding with Baku State University, Brussels Energy Club ASBL, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Renewables Academy AG (RENAC). Its programme activities included the Clean Energy Hackathon 2026, the Clean Energy Academy Programme, the GN-SEC Webinar Series, the Regional Clean Energy Compendium, the Clean Energy by Numbers series, and the publication of the Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions.

These activities established a foundation for CECECO's continued work to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, strengthen professional capacities, support regional cooperation, and facilitate knowledge exchange across its Member States and with international partners.

2. Institutional Setup and Governance

The first Meeting of the Board of Governors of CECECO was held virtually on 9 September 2025 under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting brought together ministerial and vice-ministerial-level representatives of ECO Member States that are signatories to the CECECO Charter, as well as the ECO Secretary General and relevant representatives of the ECO Secretariat. The meeting unanimously adopted the Rules of Procedure of CECECO and appointed Ms. Aysel Yagubova as Executive Director.

On 2 December 2025, the Host Country Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and CECECO. H.E. Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy, signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, while Ms. Aysel Yagubova signed the document on behalf of CECECO. On 27 April 2026, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the Agreement, and H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed the Law approving it, fully establishing the legal framework for the Centre's operations as a regional clean energy centre headquartered in Azerbaijan.

The first Meeting of the Executive Board was held virtually on 14 May 2026 under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with representatives of CECECO Signatory States, the ECO Secretariat, and the CECECO Secretariat. The Board reviewed progress since the Centre's operationalization and discussed the proposed Work Plan for May–December 2026, draft Staff and Financial Regulations, the proposed CECECO Distinction Award, and preparations for future regional initiatives and engagement in COP31 in Türkiye.

3. Key Activities and Developments

3.1 Institutional Milestones

The approval of the Host Country Agreement in April 2026 consolidated CECECO's legal foundation and supported the Centre's continued institutional development. The first Executive Board meeting in May 2026 provided a forum to review progress, consider institutional regulations, and discuss the Centre's work plan and future priorities.

CECECO maintained coordination with the ECO Secretariat and its Energy, Resources and Minerals Department to follow up on decisions of the Board of Governors and align activities with the ECO energy framework. The Centre also participated in meetings of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives held between February and April 2026, contributing to discussions on the implementation of the decisions of the 233rd meeting of the CPR.

3.2 Meetings with Officials of Signatory States

Throughout the reporting period, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova held meetings with officials of signatory states to present the Centre's mandate, discuss ongoing and planned projects, identify countries' expectations, and explore opportunities for cooperation.

Republic of Azerbaijan

- H.E. Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy;
- H.E. Mr. Farid Gayibov, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- H.E. Mr. Hikmet Hajiyev, Assistant to the President and Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration;
- H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues;
- H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Hafiz Pashayev, Rector of ADA University;
- Mr. Samir Akhundov, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency (AERA);
- Mr. Sadig Gurbanov, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Ms. Nigar Arpadarai, Member of the Milli Majlis and COP29 High-Level Champion;
- Mr. Elchin Babayev, Rector of Baku State University;
- Ms. Rana Humbatova, Deputy Director, Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency;
- Mr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev, Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Energy;
- Mr. Elmar Mammadov, Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- Mr. Elmir Musayev, General Director, SOCAR Green;
- H.E. Vagif Sadikhov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium;
- H.E. Mr. Rovshan Sadigbayli, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. Mammad Ahmadzada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Republic of Kazakhstan

- H.E. Mr. Ilyas Bakytzhan, Vice Minister of Energy;
- H.E. Mr. Alim Bayel, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Mr. Saken Amangeldinovich Kalkamanov, Chairman of the Board of the International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects (IGTIC);
- Mr. Daniyar Seidaliyev, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Kyrgyz Republic

- H.E. Mr. Taalaibek Omukeevich Ibraev, Minister of Energy;
- H.E. Mr. Maksat Mamytkanov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aidit Erkin, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- H.E. Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- H.E. Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- Mr. Syed Tauqeer Hussain, Joint Secretary (Development), Power Division, Ministry of Energy;
- Mr. Sheeraz Anwar Khan, Director General (Solar), PPIB, Ministry of Energy;
- Mr. Hadeeqa Qureshi, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Republic of Türkiye

- H.E. Mr. Birol Akgün, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- H.E. Mr. Fuat Erdoğmuş, Coordinator, TİKA Astana Programme Coordination Office;
- Mr. Kürşat Özdemir, Deputy Coordinator, TİKA Baku Programme Coordination Office;
- Dr. Ramazan Usta, Deputy Director General of Energy Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Dr. Bilal Düzgün, Head of Energy Efficiency and Environment Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;

- Mr. Mustafa Çalışkan, Head of Energy Affairs Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Ms. Halime Semerci Kuşçu, Head of Department, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Mr. Murat Ersin Shahin, Head of Department of Promotion, Training and Audit, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Mr. Çağlayan Yıldız, Energy and Natural Resources Expert, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Mr. Özgür Çakar, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye to the Kingdom of Belgium;
- Dr. Ibrahim Erden, Chairman of the Turkish Wind Energy Association (TÜREB).

Republic of Uzbekistan

- H.E. Mr. Bahrom Ashrafkhanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- H.E. Mr. Gayrat Fazilov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Kingdom of Belgium.

3.3 Collaborative Engagements and Institutional Coordination

During the reporting period, CECECO representatives engaged with key regional and international partners to support coordination of activities and exchange of information on sustainable energy initiatives.

CECECO held discussions with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on capacity-building activities, regional knowledge platforms, and UNESCAP's initiatives related to SDG7 in CECECO signatory states, with a view to identifying areas for potential cooperation.

CECECO engaged with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) based in Seoul, Republic of Korea to explore opportunities for collaboration in strengthening capacity for green energy projects development in the ECO region. The discussion focused on potential joint initiatives in capacity building, project preparation, and technical training to accelerate the region's energy transition.

Meeting with the representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) focused on identifying opportunities for collaboration on sustainable energy initiatives across CECECO signatory states, with particular emphasis on mobilizing financial resources, attracting investment, and leveraging the UNECE–SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support project development and implementation.

During the meeting with officials of bp Azerbaijan potential avenues for cooperation were explored, focusing on knowledge exchange and joint initiatives in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Discussions also covered opportunities for training programs and public awareness activities aimed at strengthening expertise and fostering innovation in the sector.

Engaging with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Azerbaijan Office CECECO discussed potential joint projects through the Bank's technical cooperation and reverse linkage mechanisms.

During bilateral meetings with the UN Habitat Country Office Director in Azerbaijan, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States and leadership of the ECO Science Foundation joint initiatives and knowledge exchange aimed at promoting sustainability, advancing the clean energy transition, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening regional cooperation across the region, as well as development of institutional framework for regular cooperation were comprehensively discussed.

CECECO's mission, its ongoing and planned activities were presented at the bilateral meetings with the Head of the European Union Delegation, as well as Ambassadors of the Republic of Korea, Austria, Germany, and Tajikistan to Azerbaijan. Opportunities for collaboration with relevant national institutions were also discussed.

During the meeting with the Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation (EUROUZ), views were exchanged on potential areas of cooperation and future joint initiatives in support of sustainable development priorities in the region.

During the reporting period, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt, Deputy Secretary-General of ECO and Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment visited CECECO's premises in Baku on separate occasions. During their respective visits, they were briefed by CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova and the team on the Centre's ongoing activities, key projects, and future plans. The discussions also covered opportunities for cooperation within the ECO framework and CECECO's efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency across the ECO region.

In September 2026, CECECO held discussions with the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) headquartered in Cairo, Egypt on strengthening cooperation between GN-SEC centres. CECECO also hosted Ms. Marinette Gaillon, Project Administrator at UNIDO, to discuss the Centre's ongoing work, 2026 Work Plan, GN-SEC activities, and possible cooperation in the framework of COP31.

CECECO was represented in the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives' (CPR) meetings held between February and April 2026, to contribute to the discussions on the implementation of the decision of the 233rd meeting of the CPR.

CECECO engaged with Renewables Academy AG (RENAC) to discuss cooperation in renewable energy training, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange. Discussions also explored opportunities for joint initiatives to strengthen technical expertise to support the clean energy transition in the ECO region.

A meeting was held with the International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTIC) to discuss potential areas of cooperation in green technologies and sustainable energy development.

CECECO representatives met with the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation to discuss potential cooperation in clean energy, climate action, and energy-efficient solutions for cultural heritage preservation.

An exchange with the Trocadéro Forum Institute focused on the respective organisations' activities and priorities, as well as potential areas of cooperation.

During an online meeting, CECECO and the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) discussed institutional cooperation, research activities, knowledge-sharing, and potential joint initiatives in renewable energy, sustainability, and the energy transition across the ECO region.

CECECO representatives met with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to discuss potential cooperation in capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and clean energy project development.

A meeting with German-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce explored potential cooperation in clean energy, renewable energy development, and knowledge exchange.

3.4 Visits and Bilateral Engagements

During the reporting period CECECO representatives conducted following visits with a view to represent CECECO at local, regional and international events, to introduce CECECO to bilateral, regional and international partners, to establish long-term partnerships and to identify joint projects:

2 October 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan

During Kazakhstan Energy Week, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in the Ministerial Roundtable of Accelerating Partnership for Renewable Energy in Central Asia (APRECA) organized by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). During the implementation session, Ms. Yagubova joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and national grid stakeholders to explore international partnerships and improved access to climate finance, including green bonds and carbon markets.

10 December 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye

CECECO representatives attended the 5th Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Energy of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), facilitated by the ECO's observer status at the OTS. During the meeting, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova held discussions with OTS Secretary General H.E. Kubanychbek Omuraliev and Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ömer Kocaman on potential cooperation between the two organizations.

January 10-12, 2026, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

CECECO representatives attended the 16th session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly, held under the theme "Powering Humanity: Renewable Energy for Shared Prosperity." CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova delivered a statement highlighting CECECO's commitment to sustainable energy solutions, energy efficiency, and regional cooperation across the ECO region.

March 16-18, Brussels, Belgium

During the visit, CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova held meetings with the Energy Charter Secretariat, UNIDO EU Office, Solar Power Europe, Hydrogen Europe, and the European Commission's Directorates-General (DG-INTPA, DG-RTD, DG-ENER, and DG-ENEST), participated in a joint roundtable with the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), and attended a briefing hosted by the Embassy of Azerbaijan for representatives of the diplomatic missions of CECECO signatory states.

April 8-13, Vienna/Graz, Austria

CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in the UNIDO International Conference "Clean Hydrogen: Shaping Sustainable Industry's Future," the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), and the 8th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC), and held bilateral meetings with the Renewables Academy (RENAC), UNECE, the OPEC Fund for International Development, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

April 21–23, Astana, Kazakhstan

CECECO representatives, including Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova, participated in the Regional Ecological Summit (RES 2026) and its sessions "Accelerating Green and Low-Carbon Industrialization in Central Asia" and "Regional Centers for Climate Technologies and Combating Desertification as New Opportunities for Ensuring Climate Resilience in Central Asia (Turkmenistan)," and held meetings with H.E. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the ECO Secretariat, Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Director of Energy and Climate Action at UNIDO, the International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects, and TİKA Kazakhstan to discuss regional cooperation, clean energy, climate action, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

May 1-2, 2026, Khojaly, Khankendi, Shusha, and Lachin, Azerbaijan

CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in a two-day visit to Khojaly, Khankendi, Shusha (ECO Tourism Capital 2026), and Lachin alongside the diplomatic corps accredited in the Republic of Azerbaijan to observe ongoing reconstruction and development initiatives in the region.

May 20–22, 2026, Ankara, Türkiye

CECECO Communications Manager Mr. Asif Mammadzada represented CECECO at the 11th Meeting of the TURKPA Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection, hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, to present CECECO's mandate, highlight regional cooperation among Turkic States and relevant institutions, and introduce the Centre's renewable energy initiative within the framework of cooperation with TURKPA.

June 5–7, 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in the Zero Waste Forum 2026 and delivered remarks during the session "Efficiency First: Energy Systems That Prevent Waste Before It Starts," highlighting the importance of energy efficiency, regional cooperation, innovation, and capacity development in advancing the clean energy transition.

June 26-27, 2026, Dubrovnik, Croatia

CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in the regional presentation of UNIDO's Industrial Development Report 2026, held within the framework of the Dubrovnik Forum, to discuss renewable energy, low-carbon industrialization, and regional cooperation in support of sustainable energy development.

September 11–12, 2026, Khankendi, Shusha, Aghdara, and Kalbajar, Azerbaijan

CECECO Executive Director Ms. Aysel Yagubova participated in a visit to Khankendi, Shusha (ECO Tourism Capital 2026), Aghdara, and Kalbajar, Azerbaijan as part of a diplomatic corps programme to observe ongoing reconstruction and development efforts in the region.

30 August–6 September 2026, Germany

CECECO Project Coordinator Ms. Nigar Shukurova participated in meetings and knowledge-exchange sessions with German stakeholders, including the Hamburg Port Authority, H2Global Foundation, Uniper, Eurogas, VNG AG, and Energy Park Bad Lauchstädt, focusing on green hydrogen development, clean energy connectivity, international trade, clean energy corridors, European regulatory developments, and underground hydrogen storage.

3.5 Events and Engagements

CECECO participated in and contributed to regional and international events on clean energy transition, youth engagement, climate action, sustainable urban development, and regional cooperation. Key engagements included:

- Baku Climate Action Week (30 September–2 October 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Youth-Led Climate Forum (1 October 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- IRENA Ministerial Roundtable on "Accelerating Partnership for Renewable Energy in Central Asia" during Kazakhstan Energy Week (2 October 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan);
- Conference on "The Role of Universities in Green Energy and Sustainability" (2–3 December 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- 5th Meeting of the Energy Ministers of the Organization of Turkic States (10 December 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye);
- Non-Aligned Movement Youth Week (5 February 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- SDG 7 Roadmap Workshop (10 February 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Southern Gas Corridor and Green Energy Advisory Council Meetings (3 March 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (11–17 May 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Baku Energy Week (1–2 June 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- GN-SEC webinar "The Role of Youth as Drivers for a Just Energy Transition" (24 July 2026);
- Baku Climate Action Week 2026 (7–11 September 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Youth-Led Climate Forum 2026 (September 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Regional Dialogue on "The Role of Sustainable Energy Centres in Promoting Climate Resilience, Innovation and Energy Transitions" (10 September 2026, Baku, Azerbaijan);
- Webinar on "Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region" (28 September 2026);
- UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2026 side event "Green Energy Connectivity and Energy Security: Advancing Cooperation for Sustainable Development" (30 September 2026, Geneva, Switzerland)
- European Hydrogen Week 2026 (27-29 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium)

High-Level Roundtable on Clean Energy

In the lead-up to the International Day of Clean Energy, CECECO, in partnership with the Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of

Azerbaijan and ADA University, organized a high-level roundtable in Baku on 23 January 2026. The event brought together policymakers, academics, industry representatives, international organizations, and youth innovators to discuss pathways for accelerating the clean energy transition.

The Caspian Emergency: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions

On 17 February 2026, CECECO joined the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan and ADA University as a co-organizer of the roundtable that addressed declining water levels, pollution, depletion of biological resources in the Caspian Sea, and related economic and regional implications, highlighting the need for coordinated action among Caspian littoral states and stakeholders.

Clean Energy Innovation and Regional Cooperation: Scaling Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Within Baku Energy Week 2026, CECECO organized a special session on 2 June 2026. The session focused on enabling ecosystems, financing mechanisms, and regional cooperation to accelerate clean energy innovation. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA, and Dr. Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan. Moderated by Mr. Fariz Ismayilzade, Member of Parliament and Vice-Rector of ADA University, the panel included representatives of Pakistan, SOCAR Green, bp Azerbaijan, UNIDO, and the Asian Development Bank.

Regional Dialogue on Climate Resilience, Innovation and Energy Transitions

On 10 September 2026, CECECO and the UNIDO GN-SEC jointly organized a Regional Dialogue on the role of sustainable energy centres in promoting climate resilience, innovation, and energy transitions. The event brought together international organizations, regional centres, government institutions, and other stakeholders. Discussions covered renewable energy integration, cross-border energy trade, energy efficiency, technology transfer, climate resilience, innovation, and clean energy corridors.

Green Energy Connectivity and Energy Security: Advancing Cooperation for Sustainable Development

On 30 September 2026, CECECO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, held a side event during UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2026 in Geneva. The event addressed energy security, cross-border electricity interconnections, renewable energy integration, and regional green energy corridors. A high-level panel moderated by Mr. Dario Liguti, Director at UNECE, brought together representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and SOCAR Green to discuss energy connectivity, regional cooperation, and energy security along the Middle Corridor.

The Role of Hydrogen in the Sustainable Energy Transition: From Theory to Practice

On 8 October 2026, CECECO held a seminar titled "The Role of Hydrogen in the Sustainable Energy Transition: From Theory to Practice" at Baku State University, bringing together students from the Faculties of Chemistry, Ecology and Soil Science, Physics, and Biology. The seminar introduced CECECO's mandate and activities, explored hydrogen's role in the energy transition, and covered key concepts related to the hydrogen value chain, storage, transportation, and Azerbaijan's National Hydrogen Outlook. CECECO's Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions was also presented.

Connecting Europe with Emerging Clean Energy Markets: Accelerating Green Hydrogen Development

On 28 October 2026, CECECO, SOCAR Green and Hydrogen Europe jointly organized a high-level side event in Brussels during European Hydrogen Week 2026. The event focused on green hydrogen development, clean energy cooperation, and green energy corridors connecting the ECO region with Europe. The panel brought together representatives of UNIDO, Xlinks, Uniper, SOCAR Green, and CECECO to discuss green hydrogen exports, regional connectivity, and enabling conditions for clean energy development. The event also featured a presentation of CECECO's Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions, supporting knowledge-building and capacity development across the region.

4. Partnerships

During the reporting period, CECECO developed cooperation frameworks with national, regional, and international partners to strengthen collaboration in clean energy, sustainable development, education, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation were signed with Baku State University, ADA University – Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD), Brussels Energy Club ASBL, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Renewables Academy AG (RENAC).

Other cooperation frameworks

CECECO continued to develop working relationships with UNIDO and GN-SEC, ECOSF, RCREEE, UNECE, TİKA, SOCAR Green, bp Azerbaijan, ADB, IsDB, RENAC, Hydrogen Europe, H2Global Foundation, Uniper, Eurogas, VNG AG, and other institutions. These engagements supported knowledge exchange and the identification of potential joint initiatives in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green hydrogen, sustainable transport, and capacity building.

5. Projects

Clean Energy Hackathon 2026

CECECO organized the Clean Energy Hackathon 2026 as a regional initiative encouraging young innovators from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic to develop solutions in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability. The initiative received 207 applications from all CECECO signatory states. An international jury, including UNIDO experts, evaluated the proposals. The final award ceremony was held on 23 January 2026

at ADA University. “EcoSense” from Uzbekistan won first place, followed by “Clean Axis” from Azerbaijan and “Sol-Scout Pro” from Kazakhstan. Special recognition awards were presented to participants from the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

The Role of Youth as Drivers for a Just Energy Transition

On 24 July 2026, CECECO co-hosted and led the organization of the inaugural GN-SEC Webinar Series webinar, “The Role of Youth as Drivers for a Just Energy Transition,” in collaboration with RCREEE, EACREEE, and ECREEE. The webinar brought together representatives of GN-SEC, the UNIDO Youth Advisory Group, regional sustainable energy centres, the private sector, and young professionals. Discussions emphasized youth leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunities for young professionals to contribute to sustainable energy development.

Sustainable Transport and Electric Mobility in the ECO Region

On 28 September 2026, CECECO and ECOSF jointly organized a regional webinar on sustainable transport and electric mobility. The programme brought together policymakers, experts, researchers, and practitioners to discuss transport emissions, electric vehicle adoption, charging infrastructure, renewable energy integration, regulatory frameworks, investment, standards, and interconnected charging networks along regional transport corridors.

Clean Energy by Numbers Series

CECECO launched the regularly updated “Clean Energy by Numbers in CECECO Countries” series to provide country-specific insights into renewable energy and energy efficiency across Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan to support public awareness and informed engagement.

Clean Energy Academy Programme

Clean Energy Academy Programme launched in September 2026 by CECECO in partnership with Renewables Academy AG (RENAC), with support from bp and its co-venturers is a capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen technical knowledge and professional skills in the clean energy sector. The programme aims to support the development of qualified trainers who can contribute to knowledge transfer and the wider dissemination of clean energy expertise in Azerbaijan. The first phase, running from September to December 2026, focuses on a Training of Trainers programme for participants from Azerbaijan. It combines 50 hours of self-paced online learning with eight half-day live virtual training sessions. Upon successful completion, participants will receive trainer certification and be equipped to design and deliver training programmes in coordination with CECECO, helping strengthen national capacities and expand access to clean energy education.

Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions

CECECO published the “Hydrogen Knowledge Guide: Key Terms and Definitions” to provide a structured reference to key concepts and terminology in the hydrogen sector. The Guide is organized into 12 chapters covering hydrogen basics, colours and classifications, production, storage, derivatives, equipment and infrastructure, transportation, safety, applications, and the wider hydrogen ecosystem. It also includes three international examples of hydrogen applications.

6. Conclusion

The reporting period from September 2025 to October 2026 marked CECECO's transition from institutional establishment to the implementation of an expanding programme of activities. The adoption of governance procedures, signing and approval of the Host Country Agreement, and convening of the first Executive Board meeting strengthened the Centre's institutional and legal foundations.

Through partnerships, regional and international engagement, capacity-building initiatives, youth-focused programmes, publications, and project development, CECECO expanded its role as a platform for cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Centre's activities during the reporting period established a basis for further programme implementation, strengthened knowledge exchange, and continued cooperation with ECO Member States and international partners.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

Agenda Item No. 5

Adoption of the 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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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

FINAL VERSION
(Agreed by 10th 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

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 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

Agenda Item No. 6

Adoption of the Draft Proposals on 1st HLC Report

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No:ADM/2026/1295

Priority: Normal
Date: 29/10/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose herewith a self-explanatory Note Verbale No. ECO-7/1/2026/A dated October 22, 2026, received from the esteemed Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, conveying its comments on the Draft Concrete Proposals pertaining to the First Three Chapters of the HLC Recommendations.

In light of the comments received from the esteemed Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Secretariat has accordingly revised the Draft Concrete Proposals. The revised version, incorporating the proposed amendments in track changes, is also enclosed herewith.

In this regard, the Secretariat would appreciate receiving any further comments or proposed amendments (if any) from the esteemed Member States at the earliest convenience, with a view to facilitating the finalization of the Draft Concrete Proposals and submission to the forthcoming 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) for final approval.

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

All ECO Member States - Tehran

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

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Be green. Print wisely.

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Tehran

ECO-7/1/2026/A

The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and with reference to the Draft Concrete Proposals on the First Three Chapters of the HLC Recommendations has the honour to state the following, along with a request for further clarification on the points outlined below:

a) The proposal requiring Member States to submit three nominations for each post is not supported;

b) The proposal to circulate positions remaining vacant for more than one year to All Member States for nomination may be further clarified particularly the distribution mechanism and rotation formula;

c) Any proposed basic English and Persian language training for Category-III Staff and their families should be arranged on a self -financing basis, to be borne by the participating staff member himself/herself;

d) The proposal regarding the formal internship program requires further careful examination and deliberation

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

22nd October, 2026

ECO Secretariat,
Tehran.



No.01

As on 28.10.2026

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

1. Financial & Budgetary Matters

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

	effectively for their intended purposes, without being depleted for budget deficits.	100,000/-) to ensure financial resilience. (Kazakhstan)	
6)	Manage administrative and operational costs effectively, ensuring sufficient coverage for the Secretariat's developmental projects and activities, thereby enabling the Secretariat to operate more efficiently.	○ Revision of the procurement thresholds under the current Procurement Regulations by increasing Small-value Procurements from USD400 to USD800, for Medium-value Procurements from USD4000 to USD5000, while maintaining Large-value Procurements exceeding USD5000, in order to reduce the administrative burden and the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments to the "ECO Secretariat's Rules of Procurement of Goods and Services".	

2. Efficiency of the Secretariat and Organizational Structure

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

3. Recruitment and Capacity Building

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

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

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		or one-time bonuses be considered for Category-III staff who demonstrate the required level of proficiency. (Kazakhstan) ○ The Secretariat arrange basic Persian language training for Staff Members and their family members, on self-finance basis, to facilitate integration into the local environment, with the option for their family members to participate in such training. (Kazakhstan proposes correct placement to be identified otherwise will be deleted) (Pakistan)	

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

Agenda Item No. 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)

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: IR /2026/989

Priority: Normal
Date: 10/9/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honor to enclose herewith a self-explanatory Note Verbal No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2026 dated 7th September 2026, along with enclosure, received from ECO Science Foundation, for consideration please.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

ECO Secretariat - No. 1, Golbou Alley, Kamranieh, Tehran, Iran - Postal Code: 19519 33114 - P.O.Box: 14155-6176
Tel: +98 (21) 22831733-4 Fax: +98 (21) 22831732 Email: registry@eco.int Website: http://www.eco.int

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Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Most Immediate
Ref: No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2026
Dated: September 7, 2026

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat in Tehran and has the honour to state that the Board of Trustees (BoT) of ECOSF, at its 6th Meeting held in Islamabad on 22 July 2026, unanimously granted/recommended the appointment of Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, the nominee of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for a further term of three (3) years as President of ECOSF. The further term of three years shall be effective from 10 August 2025 to 10 August 2028, following the expiry of his first term on 10 August 2025, with no further extension. This decision was taken under Agenda Item No. 12 and Paragraph No. 81 of the Report of the 6th Meeting of the BoT. The relevant paragraph of the Report is attached for ready reference.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Additional Protocol to the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation, the appointment of the President of ECOSF is subject to the approval of the ECO Council of Ministers (ECO-COM).

In view of the foregoing, the ECOSF would highly appreciate if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat in Tehran may include of the appointment of Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi as President of ECOSF for a further term of three (3) years, effective from 10 August 2025 to 10 August 2028, in the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers for its consideration and approval.

The ECOSF avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Director General– CARs & ECO) of I.R. of Pakistan**
- **The ECO Secretariat, Tehran-Iran**

Copy to:

- The Ministry of Science and Technology (JSA(IL)/Focal Point ECOSF) of I.R. of Pakistan
- The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad

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6th Meeting of
Board of Trustees (BoT) of the
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Jul 22, 2026 - ***Islamabad- Pakistan***

Report

Agenda Item No.12:

Administrative Matters

a. Appointment of 3rd President of ECOSF

78. The Board was apprised that Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, a national of the Islamic Republic of Iran, assumed office as the Second President of ECOSF on 11 August 2022 following his nomination by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and approval by the 24th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) for a three-year term, which expired on 10 August 2025.

79. In anticipation of the expiry of his tenure, ECOSF invited nominations for the position of the Third President of ECOSF from the Member States through ECOSF Note Verbale No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2025/2, dated 22 January 2025. As no nominations were received within the stipulated timeframe, the tenure of Prof. Tayebi was extended, through a silent procedure, in August 2025 until the convening of the 6th Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Subsequently, a reminder requesting Member States to submit nominations for the position was circulated through ECOSF Note Verbale No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2026, dated 28 January 2026.

80. In response to the call for nominations, the Islamic Republic of Iran nominated Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, current President of ECOSF, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan nominated Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, the current Executive Director ECOSF for the post of 3rd President of ECOSF.

81. *The Board deliberated on the agenda at length and unanimously decided that Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, current President of ECOSF and nominee of I.R. of Iran, will be granted another term of 3 years as President of ECOSF, effective from the expiration of his first term on August 10, 2025, which will expire on 10th August 2028 with no further extension, with the condition that I.R. of Iran clears all its arrears (US$ 2.569 Million) as per agreed schedule under agenda number 11 a, para 64 and 65 of this report, wherein I.R. of Iran has committed to pay US$ 1 million in arrears within one year of holding of 6th Meeting of ECOSF BoT in two equal six-monthly installments and the remaining US$ 1.569 million arrears in the following year by August 2028, in addition to its regular contribution.*

82. *The Board also decided that Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, current Executive Director and nominee of I.R. of Pakistan, whose tenure will end on March 27, 2027, will be granted another term, as Executive Director, of 4 years till March 27, 2031, effective from the expiration of his first term.*

83. Consideration of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) as an observer of ECOSF

84. The President ECOSF informed the Board that the Foundation has received a request from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to assign the status of an observer of ECOSF. The request is placed at **Annex - XXII**.

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Tehran

No. ECO-7/2/2026-B /03

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran and with reference to the esteemed Secretariat's Note Verbal No. IR/2026/989 dated 10th September, 2026 regarding appointment of Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi as President of ECOSF, has the honour to convey that the said agenda item may be included in the forthcoming 30th ECO Council of Ministers (COM) meeting to be held in Islamabad on 16th November, 2026.

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

29th September, 2026

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
TEHRAN

ECO Secretariat,
Tehran

No.4

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Economic Cooperation Organization
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Agenda Item No. 8

Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué

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Agenda Item No. 9

Treaty Event

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Agenda Item No. 10

Any other business

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Agenda Item No. 11

Date and venue of the next COM Meeting

Economic Cooperation Organization
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Agenda Item No. 12

Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting