



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)
SECRETARIAT

Report of
The 19th Council of Ministers' Meeting
(Istanbul, 22nd December, 2010)

Report of
The 19th Council of Ministers' Meeting

1) The Nineteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 22nd December, 2010. The meeting was attended by delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 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, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan. A delegation of the ECO Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, participated in the meeting. The representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions also participated in the meeting. The delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State also participated in the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

2) The meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on December 20-21, 2010 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador Mithat Rende, Director General of Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. In his opening remarks, Mr. Mithat Rende extended a warm welcome to the delegations attending this important ECO meeting in the historic city of Istanbul. He expressed his thanks to the ECO Secretary General and his colleagues for making necessary preparations and documentation, contributing to the success of the meeting. Mr. Rende noted that Turkey attaches great importance to the ECO activities and considers the ECO as a promising multinational economic platform which contributes to the establishment of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

3) The Secretary General of ECO His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi also delivered a short statement at the inauguration of SOM, welcoming the Senior Officials and expressing the hope that their positive and constructive contributions would enrich the deliberations, making a success of the meeting. He also expressed his thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey, in particular, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for hosting this important ECO event in Istanbul.

Agenda Item No. 1

Opening of the Meeting

4) His Excellency Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran who was the incumbent Chairman of COM, opened the meeting with a brief statement, expressing appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey. He pointed to the progress that the Organization had made since the last COM meeting held in Tehran and expressed appreciation for the positive work done in diverse fields.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

5) His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that His Excellency Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, be elected as the new Chairman of the COM. The Council unanimously endorsed the election of H.E. Dr. Davutoglu.

6) Assuming the Chairmanship of the COM, H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, thanked the members of the Council for reposing confidence in him and outlined his vision for further enhancing economic cooperation in the region. He said that Turkey remained committed to ECO's aims and objectives, and, with the support of the Member States, would put its utmost efforts to promote them further. The Minister noted that natural resources and dynamic manpower of ECO member countries can create a significant momentum and opportunity for economic activity. He underlined that Turkey has been following a multifaceted, proactive, constructive and vision-oriented foreign policy aimed to build an atmosphere of security and welfare both in its neighbourhood and beyond. The Minister emphasized the need for taking additional steps and giving priority to certain areas of cooperation in order to be more efficient in realizing the ECO Vision-2015. A copy of the statement is attached as **Annex. II.**

7) His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the Secretary General of ECO also delivered a statement. In his statement, the Secretary General reviewed ECO's activities highlighting the progress made since Tehran meeting (March, 2009). The Secretary General dilated on the outcome of sectoral Ministerial and other high-level meetings, and ECO's relations with regional and international organizations. The statement also touched on the activities of ECO's Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and affiliated bodies. A copy of his statement is attached at **Annex-III.**

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

8) The Council adopted the following agenda of its meeting, which was endorsed by the 164th CPR Meeting (Tehran, 15 November, 2010) and the Senior Officials Meeting (Istanbul, 20-21 December, 2010).

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegations
5. Statements by the Heads of International Organizations
6. Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies
7. Report on Mid-Term Evaluation of the ECO Vision 2015
8. Consideration of the ECO Secretary General's Report
9. Status Report on the Agreements/MoUs signed by the ECO Member States
10. ECO Institutions:

- A. Reports of the Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies:
 - A. The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
 - B. The ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECOTDB)
 - C. The ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECOCCI)
 - D. The ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI)
 - E. The ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)

- B. Status Report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies approved by the COM but not operationalized
 - i) The ECO Science Foundation
 - ii) The ECO Educational Institute
 - iii) The ECO Re-insurance Company
 - iv) The ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)
 - v) The ECO Regional Office on Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty
 - vi) The ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM)

- C. Establishment of new Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies:
 - a) The ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)
 - b) The ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)
 - c) The ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water
 - d) The Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for the Implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)
 - e) The ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC)

11. Status of implementation of ECO Priority Projects/Programmes:

- 1. Construction of Deh Mazang Public Park and Rehabilitation of Kabul Zoo
- 2. Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province
- 3. Construction of a School in Bamian Province
- 4. Construction of Block A of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Training and Research Center (MRRD) in Kabul
- 5. ECO/TDB Joint Project for Preparation of a Regional Program for Implementation of the TTFA
- 6. Construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran
- 7. Container and Passenger Train on Istanbul-Almaty Route

8. ECO Container Train on Bandar Abbas–Almaty Route
 9. Launching ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Islamabad Route
 10. ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan
 11. EU-funded Project Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States
 12. The 2nd Phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of the ECO Member States in Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ) and 3rd phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of ECO Member States
 13. ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade
 14. ECO Trade and Investment Information Network Web Portal
 15. ECO-Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)
 16. FAO-ECO Project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO Region within the scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP)
 17. ECO Joint Economic Programme
 18. ECO Nanotechnology Network
 19. ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECOABN)
 20. ECO Tourism Promotion Fund and ECO Tourism Guide Book
 21. Establishment of ECO Blood Safety Network
 22. Establishment of ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Network
12. Review of ECO's External Relations
- i. Status of Cooperation with International/Regional organizations
 - ii. Approval of the Draft revised terms of Reference of "Contact Groups of Ambassadors of ECO Member States at various important Regional/International fora
13. Review and approval of ECO activities:
- i. The Meetings of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)
 - ii. The Secretariat's Budget for 2011
 - iii. The Secretariat's Audit Reports for 2008 and 2009
 - iv. The Status of Unpaid Contributions by the Member States to the Secretariat's Budget
 - v. The 20th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC), including:
 - a. The Report of the 20th RPC Meeting
 - b. The Annual Calendar of Events for 2010-2011
 - c. The Work Program for 2010-2011
 - vi. Sectoral Ministerial meetings held after the 18th COM Meeting:
 - a. Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Islamabad route, 01 March, 2009, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
 - b. 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, 23 October, 2009, Antalya, Turkey
 - c. 1st Ministerial Meeting on Health, 5 February, 2010, Baku, Azerbaijan
 - d. 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum, 01 October,

- 2010, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
 - e. Ministerial Meeting on Railway Project for the connection Kashghar-Herat from China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran, 28-29 October, 2010, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
 - vii. Implementation of the decisions of the 18th COM meeting
14. Administrative Matters/Amendments to Basic Documents:
 - a. Appointment of Deputy Secretary General (EME/HRSD/ADM)
 - b. Amendments in the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat
 - c. Appointment of Audit Board
 15. Preparation for the 11th Summit:
 - i. Draft Agenda
 - ii. Draft Istanbul Declaration 2010
 - iii. ECO Awards 2010
 16. Any other business
 17. Date and venue of the next meeting
 18. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 19th COM
 19. Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting

Item No. 4

Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegations

9) The Ministers/Heads of delegations delivered their statements, outlining their countries' policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization which are placed at Annex-IV.

Agenda Item No. 5

Statements by the Heads of International Organizations

10) The representatives of Developing 8 (D-8), International Road Union (IRU), Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), International Organization for Migration and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, made brief statements. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are attached at Annex-V.

Agenda Item No. 6

Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies

11) The Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and affiliated bodies attended the meeting and made brief statements. These included, the ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO TDB), the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) and the ECO College of Insurance (ECO CI). Copies of the statements are attached as Annex-VI.

Agenda Item No. 7

Report on Mid-Term Evaluation of the ECO Vision-2015

12) H.E. Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General briefed the Council about the background and future prospects of the ECO Vision-2015. It was recalled that according to the ECO Vision-2015, various targets for ECO cooperation under 12 categories including trade, transport, energy, industry, agriculture were envisaged. He noted that concrete progress have been achieved in various areas. However, still there is need to revisit this Vision in view of global developments and challenges.

13) The Member States appreciated the work of the Secretariat for preparing the theme paper on the mid-term evaluation of the ECO Vision-2015. Some Member States expressed their reservations regarding some sections of the theme paper. In line with the recommendation of the Secretariat, the Council agreed to establish an Eminent Persons Group among others to make recommendation for its more efficient implementation and to consider revision of the ECO Vision, if needed. The Regional Planning Council (RPC) and the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) were entrusted to follow up the implementation of the ECO Vision – 2015 and report to Council of Ministers Meetings. Member States were requested to accord priority to the ECO Vision targets on their national plans and budgets.

Agenda Item No.8

Consideration of the ECO Secretary General's Report

14) The Council appreciated the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of ECO since the last COM meeting (Tehran, March, 2009). The report had been circulated to Member States vide Secretariat's note Verbale No. SG/19th COM/2010/1705 dated 29 November, 2010. The Secretary General's Report gives an economic outlook of the region; outlines major achievements of the Organization; reviews ongoing ECO projects, programmes and external relations. The Report also contains recommendations on the priority areas of the ECO activities.

Agenda Item No. 9

Status Report on the Agreements/MoUs signed by the ECO Member States

15) The Council was briefed that the Secretariat had circulated a Status Report on the Agreements/MoUs signed by the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. SG/19th COM/2010/1664 dated 22 November, 2010 which includes the details of the signing, ratification and implementation of the ECO agreements. The 164th CPR meeting (15 November, 2010) had already endorsed this report.

16) The Council considered the Status Report on implementation of the Agreements/MoUs signed by the Member States and urged the Member States to take necessary action in order to speed up the signing and ratification of these agreements.

The Council also urged the Member States to ensure smooth implementation of those agreements which have already come into force.

Agenda Item No. 10

ECO institutions:

A. Reports of the Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and affiliated bodies:

17) The Council took note, with appreciation, of the annual reports submitted by the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and expressed the hope that the regional institutions/specialized agencies would continue to play a meaningful role in the progress and development of the region.

18) The Council, considering the need to infuse fresh dynamism into ECO's specialized institutions, took the following decisions in respect of the affiliated bodies:

i. ECO Trade & Development Bank (ETDB)

19) The Council appreciated the activities of the Bank aimed to lend financial facilities for the development of the region and also welcomed opening of the Representatives Offices in Iran and Pakistan. It urged the Bank to step up activities focusing more on trade financing and initiate regional programmes and projects for trade facilitation in the region, in cooperation with the Secretariat.

ii. ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

20) The Council took note with appreciation of the expansion in the activities of the Institute in particular the establishment of the Regional Centres in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The Council also called on the remaining Member States to sign/ratify the Charter of the Institute.

iii. ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECCI)

21) The Council appreciated the activities of the ECO-CCI and requested it to intensify regular trade promotion activities, including business forums, trade fairs and market research under its ten (10) Year Plan of Action and encourage the national Chambers to organize such events. The Council took note of Turkey's willingness to host the Permanent Secretariat of the ECO-CCI in Istanbul.

iv. ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI)

22) The Council expressed its satisfaction at the activities of the College. It urged the College to organize the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the College in

accordance with the Statute of the College adopted at the 17th Meeting of the COM.

v. ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)

23) The Council took note of the Report submitted by the Secretariat to the 20th RPC on the impediments faced by ECO-CEC and asked the Member States to remove the impediments to make it a viable regional institute.

B. Status Report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies approved by the COM but not operationalized

24) The Council took note of the status report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies which had already been approved by the COM but not operationalized yet. Having reviewed the progress on early operationalization of the established Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies, the Council observed as follows:

i) The ECO Science Foundation

25) The Council noted the progress on operationalizing the ECO Science Foundation and urged the Member States to confirm participation in the 1st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation scheduled to be held on 10th January, 2011 in Islamabad at the earliest so that the Foundation could be made operational without further delay. It also called on the remaining signatory Member States to ratify the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation.

ii) The ECO Educational Institute

26) The Council welcomed the proposal of Turkey to host the 1st Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Institute during the next year and urged the Member States to actively participate in this meeting. It also invited the remaining Member States to ratify the Charter of the Institute.

iii) The ECO Re-insurance Company

27) The Council urged Iran and Turkey to expedite their ratification process and called on the other concerned Member States to join the Company to benefit from its services at the earliest.

iv) The ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)

28) The Council welcomed the proposal of Turkey to hold the 4th Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on 19-21 January, 2011 in Antalya and urged the relevant Member States to sign and ratify the RISCAM Statute for early operationalization of this important Institute.

v) The ECO Regional Office on Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty

29) The Council invited Kazakhstan to ratify the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation so that this Representative Office could establish linkages with the Foundation to work in a coordinated and efficient manner. The Council requested Kazakhstan to propose exact dates for holding the Working Group Meeting in order to finalize draft modality and other related issues.

v) The ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM)

30) The Council approved the establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) in Mashhad. It also welcomed the signing of MOU on Establishment of ECO-RCRM by the Republic of Turkey during the 19th COM.

C. Establishment of new Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies:

31) The Council deliberated this agenda item in detail and agreed as follows:

i) The ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)

32) The Council approved establishment of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) in Ankara as an affiliated body of ECO and appreciated its activities carried out so far. It called on the Member States to extend support and cooperation for the success of ECOSA.

ii) The ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)

33) The Council approved establishment of the ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) in Tehran as a specialized agency of ECO. The Council also approved the Statute

of ECO-VECO and decided to open it for signature of the Member States.

iii) ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture

34) The Council approved establishment of the ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture in Islamabad and called on the Member States to support its activities.

iv) The Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for Implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)

35) The Council approved establishment of the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security in Ankara.

v) The ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC)

36) The Council approved establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) in Ankara as an affiliated body of ECO and called on the Member States to extend support and cooperation to its activities.

Agenda Item No. 11

Status Report on Implementation of ECO Priority Projects/Programmes

37) The Council deliberated on the Status Report on implementation of the following ECO Priority Projects/Programme, and observed as follows:

1. Construction of Deh Mazang Public Park and Rehabilitation of Kabul Zoo

38) The Council requested concerned Afghan authorities to expedite necessary actions to complete the remaining 20 percent of the project.

2. Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province

39) The Council requested concerned Afghan authorities to submit the Draft Agreement in order to finalize the project and avoid unnecessary delays.

3. Construction of a School in Bamian Province

40) The Council was informed that the draft agreement on the subject matter has already been prepared and shared with the Secretariat.

4. Construction of Block A of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Training and Research Center (MRRD) in Kabul

41) The Council was informed that the project is already completed and the report of the completion is certified by the Ministry of foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and has been submitted to the Secretariat for the transfer of last installment.

5. ECO/IDB Joint Project for Preparation of a Regional Program for Implementation of the TTFA

42) The Council urged the Member States to nominate their national consultants and focal points for this project. The Council further requested IDB to extend the project until the end of 2011 as a way to assure the effectiveness of the project.

6. Construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran

43) The Council requested the en-route Member States to provide regular progress reports on the project implementation. It also stressed the need for regular meetings of the Trilateral Coordination Committee and visits of the Committee to the construction sites in each of the en-route Member States.

7. Container and Passenger Train on Istanbul-Almaty Route

44) The Council instructed the Secretariat and the en-route Member States to expedite the Feasibility Study to regularize the Container Train's operation in 2011, and continue contacting China and UNECE to extend this route to China and Europe. Iran was requested to commence upgrading the capacity of Sarakhs Station.

8. ECO Container Train on Bandar Abbas-Almaty Route

45) The Council urged the Secretariat and the en-route Member States to launch the first demonstration run of this Container Train in 2011.

9. Launching ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Islamabad Route

46) The Council asked the CPR to allocate funds for further studies on this route. The Council also requested the en-route Member States to consider reducing the tariffs on this Container Train to the level suggested by the Consultants. The Council requested Pakistan to expedite commencement of the Taftan-Quetta railway project. The Secretariat was requested to approach ECO Trade and Development Bank to consider financing this project.

10. ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan

47) The Council stressed that regular run of the trucks be started by January 2011 with participation of all Member States. Additional funding may be allocated by the CPR for this purpose. Co-sponsorship should be sought by the Secretariat. The Council requested the Secretariat to seek, jointly with UNECE and other international and regional institutions, ways to expand the Caravan's outreach to other destinations beyond the ECO region.

11. EU-funded Project Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States

48) The Council expressed satisfaction on signing of the MOU between ECO and European Commission on implementation of the project titled "Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan" with the ECO Member States. The Council appreciated European Commission's assistance in funding the Project and called on relevant authorities of the Member States to extend fullest support for implementation of this project. Afghanistan requested to consider changing the name of the project, to better reflect its objectives and components.

12. The 2nd Phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of the ECO Member States in Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ) and 3rd phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of ECO Member States

49) The Council appreciated the progress achieved during the first two phases of the ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building and urged Member States to consider possible technical and financial support for the extensive activity plan being developed for the 3rd Phase of the Project. It also urged for establishing long term collaboration in trade and industrial fields, implementation of ECO Trade Agreement, activation of the ECO Regional Institute for Standards Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM) and preparations for a Mutual Recognition Agreement in standardization.

13. ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade

50) The Council approved the proposed enlargement of the scope of the Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade by covering trade promotional activities, including specialized trade fairs, exchange of Buyers-Sellers delegations, symposia on leading export sectors, trade research and special support for the smaller economies of ECO under Integrated Market Promotion Plans (IMPP).

14. ECO Trade and Investment Information Network Web Portal

51) The Council urged for a more active involvement of the Member States to fully operationalize the ECO Trade & Investment Network Web Portal. It also approved the proposed study on the regional IT infrastructure; support for the IT related requirements of the Trade and Investment organizations of the smaller economies of ECO and hosting of the annual meetings of National Focal Points by the Secretariat during 2011-2012.

15. ECO-Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)

52) The Council appreciated the progress achieved in the implementation of ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) and determined the location of the Regional Coordination Center for the implementation of the RPFS (RCC) in Ankara. The Council thanked FAO, IDB, World Bank, ICARDA and TIKA for their technical and financial support in implementation of the programme.

16. FAO-ECO Project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO Region within the scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP)

53) The Council welcomed the approval of the Project on Seed Sector Development in the region and thanked the FAO/FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC) in Ankara for its support.

17. ECO Joint Economic Programme

54) The Council requested Member States to support the ECO Joint Economic Research Programme, which was developed in line with the recommendations of the 9th and 10th ECO Summit Meetings.

18. ECO Nanotechnology Network

55) The Council requested the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expedite the activities under the ECO Nanotechnology Network and invited the relevant Member States to support functioning of the Network.

19. ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)

56) The Council requested the concerned Iranian authorities to expedite organization of required activities for the establishment of the network.

20. ECO Tourism Promotion Fund and ECO Tourism Guide Book

57) The Council requested the concerned Member States to nominate their representatives for the Fund's Board of Trustees (BoT) and contribute to the Fund. The Council appreciated the printing of the ECO Tourist Guide Book and thanked the ECO Secretariat, ECO Cultural Institute, and the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their efforts in printing the ECO Tourist Guide Book.

21. Establishment of ECO Blood Safety Network

58) The Council welcomed the decisions of the 1st Health Ministerial Meeting to establish the ECO Blood Safety Network. The Council noted the progress made in this field in 2010 and called for early establishment of the Network. It requested the Member States to extend their utmost efforts and cooperation in this area, particularly in furnishing the already circulated questionnaires as the first step towards establishment of the Network.

22. Establishment of ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Network

59) While emphasizing the importance of ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authority Network, the Council welcomed the approval by the 1st Health Ministerial Meeting of the establishment of the Network and appreciated the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the coordinating country for the Network and, requested cooperation of the Member States whilst establishing the Network and making it fully functional.

60) The Afghan delegation informed the meeting about the on-going work related to establishment of ECO International Park in Herat which was welcomed during the 17th COM Meeting and urged the Secretariat and the Member States to support this project which would symbolize a good example of regional cooperation.

Agenda Item No. 12

Review of ECO's External Relations

i) Status of Cooperation with International/Regional organizations

61) While appreciating the efforts made by ECO in strengthening its relations in the light of the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of ECO external relations, the Council requested the Secretariat to consult Member States prior to initiating contacts with non-Member States.

ii) Approval of the Draft revised terms of Reference of “Contact Groups of Ambassadors of ECO Member States at various important Regional/International fora

62) The Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of Contact Groups of Ambassadors at important regional/international fora and called on the Member States to send necessary instructions to their relevant Missions to render the Contact Groups operational. The Council also urged the Member States to take active part in the activities of the Contact Groups.

Agenda Item No. 13

Review and approval of ECO activities:

i. The Meetings of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

63) The Council adopted the reports of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for its twenty meetings (147th to 165th, including Extraordinary CPR meeting), held since the 18th COM Meeting (Tehran, March 2009) and appreciated the hard work done by the CPR.

ii. The Secretariat’s Budget for 2011

64) The Council formally approved the Secretariat’s budget for 2011 amounting to US\$ 3,038,965.00, which included US\$ 144,713 as Feasibility Study Fund (5% of the budget). The budget was endorsed by the 165th CPR meeting (6th December, 2010), on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

iii. The Secretariat’s Audit Reports for 2008 and 2009

Audit Report on 2008 Financial Year Activities

65) The Council approved the Audit Report on the Secretariat’s budget for 2008 which had been considered earlier and endorsed by the 150 CPR meeting.

Audit Report for 2009 Financial Year Activities

66) The Council approved the Audit Report on the Secretariat’s budget for 2009 which had been considered earlier and endorsed by the 161 CPR meeting.

iv. The Status of unpaid contributions by the Member States to the Secretariat’s budget

67) While appreciating the Member States who had paid their contributions, the Council asked the remaining Member States to do so at the earliest. The Council

emphasized the need for Member States to make necessary arrangements for timely remitting their contributions, specifically, during the first quarter of each financial year, and no later than the deadline of 30th June. The Representative of Kyrgyz Republic assured the Council that their contributions would be transmitted to the Secretariat's account in near future.

68) As regards the arrears of Uzbekistan, the Council decided that a delegation comprising representatives of troika along with the Secretary General should pay a visit to Uzbekistan to raise the matter with the relevant Uzbek authorities and report to the Council accordingly.

v. The 20th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC), including:

- a. The Report of the 20th RPC Meeting
- b. The Annual Calendar of Events for 2010-2011
- c. The Work Program for 2010-2011

69) The Council reviewed and adopted the report of the 20th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held in Antalya, Turkey on 16-18 February, 2010, along with the ECO Calendar of Events for 2010-2011. The Council also approved the Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2010-2011.

vi. Sectoral Ministerial meetings held after the 18th COM Meeting:

70) The Council reviewed and took note of the reports of the following sectoral Ministerial meetings held since the 18th COM Meeting (Tehran, March, 2009) and urged the Member States to take necessary measures to implement the decisions of those meetings:

1. Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad route, Tehran, 01 March, 2009
2. The 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, Antalya, 22-23 October, 2009
3. The 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health, Baku, 4-5 February, 2010
4. The 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum, Dushanbe, 29 September -01 October, 2010
5. Ministerial Meeting on Railway Project Kashghar-Herat, Dushanbe, 13-14 October, 2010

71) The Council asked the Secretariat to actively follow up the implementation of decisions of those meetings on regular basis.

vii. Implementation of decisions of the 18th COM Meeting

72) The Council appreciated the preparation of a comprehensive follow-up report on implementation of decisions of the 18th COM meeting. The Council laid emphasis on speedy implementation of agreed decisions of the COM.

Agenda Item No. 14

Administrative Matters/ Amendments to Basic Documents

a. Appointment of Deputy Secretary General (EME/PERS/ADM/DOCCU)

73) The Council agreed with the decision/recommendations of the Council of Permanent Representatives/Senior Officials and appointed Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi Shahrehabak (Iranian National) against the post of Deputy Secretary General (Administration, Energy, Minerals and Environment, Human Resources and Sustainable Development, Drug and Organized Crimes Coordination Unit) in place of Amb. Hassan Taherian, effective from 1st January, 2011, for a period of three years. The Council also thanked Amb. Taherian for his contributions towards achieving the goals of the organization.

b. Amendments in the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat

74) The Council, on the recommendations of the 164th CPR meeting (15 November, 2010) approved the following amendments in the Staff Regulations of ECO:

I. **Children Allowance**

"13.1 The Secretary General and the Staff members having children shall receive a monthly children allowance up to a maximum of three children less than 21 years of age, as shown in Annex III of the present Regulations."

II. **Advance Payment**

"14.4 The Secretary General may authorize to pay the total monthly emoluments of the staff members, maximum 15 days in advance, once during each financial year on the occasion of their National/religious festival."

III. **Installation/Transfer Grant**

"17.1 Installation/transfer grant shall be paid to the non-resident Secretary General and staff members in Category I equivalent to one month's basic salary and to non-resident staff member in Category II one month total monthly emoluments in case of married persons and half of the above entitlement in case of unmarried persons at the time of commencement and termination of tenure/service to meet the cost of transfer of residence."

IV. Advance payment to newly installed staff

"17.2. The Secretary General may pay up to 3 month of the monthly emoluments of the newly installed non-resident staff for her/his installation expenses, in advance. This advance payment would be deducted from her/his first nine month salaries."

V. Leave encashment

"28.2 In case where owing to exigencies of service a staff member can not avail annual leave, the encashment thereof on the basis of the monthly emoluments up to a maximum of 45 days shall be allowed at the time of termination of tenure/services or retirement."

VI. Medical expenses for staff and his dependents within the Region

"29.5.2. When the staff member is on home leave/leave in her/his home country or his/her dependents are in their home country and need immediate medical care, with submission of the prescribed document in Article 29.4 as well as duly attested translation of the documents by the relevant ECO Member State's Embassy only for hospitalization/clinical charges, the Secretariat shall pay the medical expenses as per the ECO Staff Regulations. Dental expenses shall not be covered in this case."

75) Tables indicating the revised Salary Scale and revised Staff Strength of ECO are attached as Annex.VII and Annex. VIII.

c. Appointment of Audit Board

76) The Council agreed with the recommendation of the 160th CPR meeting (28 June, 2010) and re-appointed the existing Audit Board, comprising Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, for another three-year's term.

Agenda Item No. 15

Preparation for the 11th Summit

i. Draft Agenda

77) The Council deliberated upon and agreed to recommend the following draft agenda for the 11th Summit meeting to be held in Istanbul on 23rd December, 2010:

1. Opening Ceremony
 - National Anthem of the Republic of Turkey
 - Inauguration by the Chairman of the 10th ECO Summit (previous Summit)
 - Election of the Chairman
 - Statement by H. E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report of the 19th Meeting of COM by the Chairman of COM
4. ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan Documentary Film
5. Report by the ECO Secretary General
6. Statements by Heads of State
7. Statement by the Special Invitees and the Secretaries General of UN (or his Special Envoy) and OIC
8. Retreat Meeting of Heads of State on "Current Global Economic Developments"
9. Any other business
10. Date and Venue of the next Summit
11. Adoption of Istanbul Declaration 2010
12. Ceremony for ECO Awards
13. Vote of Thanks and Closing Address by Chairman of the 11th Summit
14. Closing of the meeting

ii. Draft Istanbul Declaration 2010

78) The Council deliberated and agreed to submit the draft Istanbul Declaration 2010 (Annex-IX) to the 11th ECO Summit for adoption, as prepared by the Senior Officials Meeting.

iii. ECO Awards 2010

79) The Council approved the names of winners of ECO Awards 2010 from Member States, comprising nine nominees recommended by the 165th CPR Meeting (6th December, 2010) along with an additional nomination received from Azerbaijan. The Council congratulated them for excellent performance in their respective fields. The names of the winners of ECO Awards 2010 are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Country	Name of Nominee	Field/Category
1.	Afghanistan	Mr. Abdul Bari Rashed	Education
2.	Azerbaijan	Ms. Elmira Ramazanova	Science and Technology
3.	Iran	Dr. Sohrab Shahabi	Economics
4.	Kazakhstan	i.) Mr. Seidhappar Mamadaliev	Agriculture & Environment
		ii.) Ms. Minura Iesimbekova	
5.	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Baisymakov Melisbek	Science & Technology
6.	Pakistan	Dr. Ashfaque Hassan Khan	Economics
7.	Tajikistan	Ms. Faroghat Azizi	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
8.	Turkey	i.) Mr. Rasim Ozdenoren (<i>Specialization in Literature</i>)	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
		ii.) Mr. Musa Kulaklikaya (<i>Specialization in Culture</i>)	

Agenda Item No. 16

Any other business

80) The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to invite the ECO Supreme Audit Institute (ECO-SAI) to the Council of Ministers meetings to present their annual reports. The Secretariat was instructed to take necessary action in this regard.

81) The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to grant observer status to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS) in accordance with Article XIV 4-5 of the Treaty of Izmir.

82) The Kyrgyz Republic recalled the Council that the post of Director (HRSD), is still vacant for the last about two years and requested that this post may be given to the nominee of Kyrgyzstan. The Turkish delegation maintained their position to appoint their nominee against this post. The Council instructed the Council of Permanent Representatives to consider the matter and take a decision in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 17

Date and venue of the next meeting

83) The Council requested the Secretariat to ascertain the willingness of Member States for hosting the (20th) Meeting of the Council of Ministers. The exact dates and venue of the meeting would be conveyed to Member States.

Agenda Item No. 18

Adoption of Draft Report of the 19th COM

84) The Council unanimously adopted the report.

Agenda Item No. 19

Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting

85) The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey for conducting the deliberations in a smooth and efficient manner, and to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to all delegations. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretary General and his team in preparing comprehensive documents and assisting the hosts to make the 19th COM meeting a complete success.