

Chairman's Conclusions
Conclusions of the Turkish Chairmanship on the 14th Summit
of Heads of State and Government of ECO countries,
Ankara (Online), 4 March 2021

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) came together upon my invitation at the 14th ECO Summit on 4 March 2021.

The meeting was attended by;

H.E. Mr. Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Mr. Sadyr Japarov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic

H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan

H.E. Mr. Kurbankulu Berdimuhammedov, President of Turkmenistan

H.E. Mr. Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The meeting was also attended by the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, observer state to ECO under the name "Turkish Cypriot State", H.E. Ersin Tatar as well as Secretary-General of the Turkic Council, H.E. Bagdat Amreyev and Secretary-General of the Energy Charter, H.E. Urban Rusnak from observer international organisations.

I thank the delegations for their kind participation and their valuable inputs to our deliberations on our main topic of discussion, "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Aftermath of COVID-19" in line with global priorities.

During the course of our deliberations:

We reaffirmed our commitment to the objectives the Organization was founded upon;

We referred to the strong cultural and historical ties among the ECO Member States and the geographical importance of the region in the world; we reiterated the key significance of ECO as one of the oldest cooperation organizations of the region;

We underscored our strong and shared will to further deepen our economic cooperation;

We reiterated our support to the principles and strategic objectives in sectoral cooperation areas in line with the ECO Vision-2025;

We referred to the role the ECO Trade and Development Bank could play in transforming ECO into a result and project-oriented Organization, and the key role of the implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) in the economic integration of the region;

We assessed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of the region, recognizing the importance of cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism in alleviating the adverse socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, we called for a more coordinated response and concerted joint efforts;

In addition to the steps we have taken to strengthen and invigorate our Organization, we exchanged views on how to strengthen our preparedness and existing tools and modalities for a more resilient Organization;

Recognizing the cooperation in the field of health among the countries of the region in items such as personal protective equipment and medicines, we emphasized that everyone should have affordable and equal access to vaccines as a global public good;

We expressed our determination to redouble our efforts to reach the level of economic cooperation we have been desiring since the establishment of the Organization;

We emphasized that increasing intra-regional trade and ensuring the uninterrupted and regular functioning of the transportation corridors in the east-west and north-south directions, especially railway lines, will also accelerate emergence from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

In light of the rich natural and cultural assets of the ECO region and the friendly relations between our peoples, we noted our will to develop mutual tourism as a component of sustainable development and the driving force of recovery efforts;

We highlighted the importance of ECO projects in the fields of environment, energy, industry, communication, agriculture and food security for sustainable development in the region;

We highlighted that ECO should continue to embrace peace and stability as essential conduit for sustainable development;

In this respect, we agreed that ECO countries should also work together to promote their common objectives in the United Nations and other international organizations and that they should be adequately represented in all international bodies, including in a reformed and enlarged United Nations Security Council.

In my capacity as the Chairman;

I thanked the Member States for their active participation and contributions to our joint work in line with the Turkish Chairmanship priorities.

Within the context of issues related to international peace and stability we discussed, I invited all our Members to develop their relations with their Turkish Cypriot brothers in every field and to help them overcome this unjust isolation they are subjected to;

On this occasion, I congratulated Azerbaijan's just struggle and victory, and expressed my conviction, as did some of my colleagues, that as ECO we will stand in full solidarity with Azerbaijan in order to assist the establishment of security and stability in Karabakh and to remedy the damage caused by the 30-year occupation, and expressed my hope that Armenia will be a part of regional stability through the peaceful steps it will take;

I stated that the lifting of all unilateral sanctions against Iran and the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by all its parties will have positive effects on the security, stability and prosperity of our region.

I pointed to the fact that a historical turn has been taken in ending the yearslong conflict and the establishment of peace.

I stated that the fight against terrorism and international cooperation on this issue maintain their importance under pandemic conditions; I noted our resolve to continue our fight against terrorist organizations such as DAESH, PKK / PYD / YPG and FETÖ in this period, as before the pandemic;

At the Summit, lastly;

We held the signing ceremony of the founding agreement of the ECO Research Center that will operate in Baku,

We expressed our appreciation to the ECO Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their contributions to the coordination of cooperation among the Member States,

We wished Turkmenistan success in its Chairmanship, effective as of 4 March 2021, and pledged our strongest support in the carrying out of this important responsibility,

We thanked Pakistan for its contributions during its 13th Summit Chairmanship,

We welcomed Turkmenistan's proposal to host the 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat on 28 November 2021, and agreed to continue our consultations at the level of Leaders at the said Summit.