

The 36th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of ECI

December 22, 2022

Annotated Draft Agenda

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) convened its 36th meeting at the ECI Headquarters on 22 December 2022. The meeting began under the chairpersonship of Mr. Ahmed Shami, Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by the ECI President, Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Iran as well as a delegation of the ECO Cultural Institute. (List of Participants is enclosed as Annex. I).

Agenda item 1

- The draft agenda of the meeting had been circulated among Member States via Note No. ECI/524/594 dated 20 December 2022. The agenda with some amendments as proposed by Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran was unanimously adopted as follows:
 1. Adoption of the Agenda,
 2. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the previous ECI-CPR meeting,
 3. Statement by ECI President on the ECI activities,
 4. Budgetary issues:
 - The latest status of contributions and arrears of the ECI member states
 - Consideration and Adoption of the ECI's Draft Budget for the year 2023
 - Purchase of new vehicles by ECI
 - Consideration of Report of Cultural Donations to the ECI
 5. Transfer of the Chairpersonship of the ECI
 6. The Scale of Assessment of Contribution by Member States to the budget of the ECI
 7. Administrative matters:
 - Distribution of posts at the ECI
 8. The 7th meeting of the ECI Board of Trustees (BoT)
 9. Any other Business,
 10. Date and venue of the next meeting.

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the Previous ECI-CPR Meeting

- The draft report of the 35th ECI-CPR meeting which had been circulated among the Member States via Note No. ECI/524/430 dated September 7, 2022 was adopted.

Agenda item 3

- H.E. Mr. Murodjon Buriboev, ECI President, made the following statement:

Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Ambassadors and Representatives of the ECO Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all Your Excellencies to the 36th meeting of the ECI-CPR and take this opportunity to thank you for attendance in this meeting.

Excellencies,

Since the last ordinary meeting of ECI-CPR in August we have conducted a variety of activity as follows:

Excellencies,

ECI President paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Esmaili, the Honorable Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in September. At the meeting, ECI President referred to the capacity of the ECI as a regional cultural institute, and briefed the Minister on the goals and vision of the Institute. He further called for the expansion of the mutual cooperation and continued support by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for the programs and activities of the ECO Cultural Institute.

Also, ECI had the honor to be visited by H.E. Ms. Zulfiya Davlatzoda, the Honorable Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan during her trip to Tehran in October on the occasion of Tajikistan's Cultural Days in Iran. The Minister visited different sections of the Institute and praised the activities of the ECO Cultural Institute and its efforts to promote the common culture of the ECO region. During her visit, the book "Poet of Peace and Friendship" which was published by ECI on the occasion of the 110th birth anniversary of Mirzo Tursunzoda, Tajik poet and national hero was launched.

Furthermore, the ECI President met with Hojjatoleslam Imanipur, the Head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in October. At the meeting, the Head of the Organization emphasized that strengthening the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and international organizations was of high importance. The ECI President also appreciated the past mutual cooperation between the two sides and called for planning more joint activities.

Excellencies,

As envisaged in the Charter of the ECI, promotion of the common languages of the ECO region is considered a key goal for the Institute. In this regard, the ECI President met with Gholamali Haddad-Adel the head of the Saadi Foundation in October. At the meeting, ways and means of promotion of

Persian language as one of the languages of the ECO region and commemoration of the literary figures of the region were discussed.

Also, the ECI President met with Dr. Mahmoud Shalouie, the Head of the Iranian Society for the Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries in November. At the meeting, the sides explored the possibilities of cooperation including holding joint events for paying homage to the dignitaries of the ECO region.

Dear Colleagues,

The ECO Cultural Institute participated in the consultation meeting between the Presidents of the ECO Specialized Agencies which was held virtually in October. At the meeting, the heads of the three agencies discussed a reliable mechanism to ensure better coordination proposals for cooperation in future programs.

ECI attaches great importance to promotion of tourism and makes every effort to contribute to tourism development in the ECO region. In this regard, the ECI President met with Mr. Ali-Asghar Shalbfian, Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in October. At the meeting, the ECI President elaborated on the activities the Institute has organized for the promotion of tourism in the ECO Region. The deputy minister described the measures taken by the ECO Cultural Institute in the field of tourism significant which could serve as the initial impetus for more actions.

ECI took part in the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism preceded by the 6th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Tourism which was held in December in virtual mode. The Meetings were hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the Ministerial Meeting, the ECI President, outlined some proposals to promote cultural tourism in the ECO region.

Also, the ECI President and experts took part actively in the other cultural events, including commemoration of Shahriar, great Persian Poet, and the other dignitaries of the region.

To pay tribute to important figures of the ECO region, ECI holds commemorative events. In this respect, on the occasion of commemorating the 145th birthday anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the book "Iqbal in the Contemporary Persian World (Analytical Historical Bibliography of Iqbal Studies in Iran from 2012 to 2022)" was launched at the ECI in November.

Excellencies,

As you are well aware, ECI always encourages the esteemed ECO member states to hold their national or cultural events in the ECI premises and use its facilities at no charge. In this regard, Pakistan "Food and Culture" festival was held at the initiative of Pakistan Embassy International School and College at the ECI Headquarters. Cultural products, handicrafts, and costumes, were exhibited at the festival, and the visitors had the chance to familiarize themselves with the taste of different foods from the participating countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To preserve common intangible heritage of the ECO region, on the occasion of "Yalda Night" (Winter Solstice), an event was organized by the ECI in partnership with the Iranian Society for the Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries and Ministry of Foreign affairs to mark this traditional festival of the ECO region.

To expand its cooperation with the other diplomatic missions, ECI hosted an art exhibition titled "Born from the Fire" in November which was organized by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Iran. The artworks by Stefan Kocka, a contemporary artist and painter from Slovakia, were put on display in this exhibition.

Dear colleagues,

Regarding our current financial situation, sorry to say but no annual contribution has been received from the esteemed member states during the year 2022 except for the Republic of Tajikistan. It is totally intractable for an international Institute to function on the contribution of only one single member state. We have not been able to pay the emoluments of our staff in full in recent months.

If the situation goes on like this, there will be a risk of the closure of the Institute.

The esteemed member states are requested to kindly take necessary measures for acceleration in their payments. The details of the latest status of payments and arrears of the member states will be provided under the relevant agenda item.

Nevertheless, we are grateful to the Republic of Tajikistan for the adoption of the proposed budget for the year 2023. I hope the remaining member states help this Council today to reach the required unanimity for the adoption of the proposed budget.

There are two other financial issues, including trading in our cars and report of the modest cultural donations by non-member states to the Institute. The details of which will be provided by my colleagues under the relevant agenda items.

Excellencies,

Although ECI has repeatedly requested the distinguished member states via circular notes to advise the Institute of their proposed programs and activities to be jointly organized by the ECI in the year 2023, only proposals from the Republic of Tajikistan have been received. The other member states may kindly convey their proposals to this Institute at the earliest. This would help ECI better arrange its calendar of events for the year ahead.

We would like to inform that the ECI is still working on the activities that were planned to be organized during the year 2022 but could not be carried out. In this regard, we will keep following up such activities with the esteemed embassies of the relevant member states.

Also, regarding the "ECO Youth Award" as already discussed in the previous meetings of the ECI-CPR, the Institute has circulated the modality and other details among the embassies of the member states to be forwarded to the relevant authorities in the respective member states for their comments/ proposals.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to you for taking part in this meeting.

Thank you.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the diversification of the activities of the ECI and involvement of various ECO member states in the events organized by the Institute. He further emphasized that as a regional institute, ECI should not be oriented to one specific member state (Iran). He stated that it is understandable that the ECI President had not

been able to travel across the ECO region due to financial problems. He proposed that a solution needs to be found so that the President would travel more to the other ECO member states to meet the relevant authorities and foster their awareness about the ECI which in turn makes a better image of the Institute and may help in fund-raising. Although only five ECO member states have joined the ECI, the rest of the ECO member countries could be considered the potential candidates for the ECI membership.

He also proposed that the ECO member states could be encouraged to arrange meetings between their officials who are visiting Iran and the President of the ECI to discuss mutual cooperation. The permanent representatives of the ECO countries could also be invited to attend such meetings. He also added that the report of the current meeting which contains the above idea can be shared with all the ECO member states, including the Iranian authorities. In this way, the Iranian officials and their counterparts from the other ECO member states who have travelled to Iran can pay a visit together to the ECI. This would broaden the ECI's portfolio.

Referring to the upcoming meeting of the ECO Council of Minister, as a decision-making organ of ECO, scheduled to be held in January in Uzbekistan, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Institute may consult with the ECO Secretariat and share its important issues in order to enlist the support of the ministers. There could be a possibility that no opportunity would be available for delivering a statement by the heads of the specialized agencies at the upcoming CoM meeting due to paucity of time.

ECI President declared that the ECI urgently needs the financial support of the member states. This had been repeatedly emphasized in meetings with the officials of the member states, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Institute is not able to function on the contribution of only one single member state. He also noted that the Institute has not been able to pay the emoluments of its staff in full over the four last months, therefore, it is not possible for the ECI President to visit even the Iranian provinces, let alone the member states.

He further added that luckily, the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism was held online otherwise it was quite difficult for the ECI President to take part due to financial issues. Anyway, the ECI will make all-out effort to avail itself of any available opportunity, including the visits to Iran by the high-ranking officials of the member states, such as the Ministers of Culture of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan who visited the ECI as well.

He stated that the Institute is confident that the esteemed member states have a strong sense of ownership to the ECI and perfectly understand the financial situation of the Institute and take the necessary measure.

Agenda item 4

Budgetary issues:

- Latest status of contributions and arrears of the ECI member states

ECI's Accounts Officer briefed the Council on the financial problems being encountered and the latest status of the member states' contributions to the ECI's budget.

He also alluded to some points about the table of arrears and contributions of the ECI member countries. He also referred to two consultation meetings between the ECI officials, representatives of the embassies of the member states, ECO Deputy Secretary General, and Halkbank's representative in Iran held for clarification on the contributions remitted by some member states but never received by the ECI. The minutes of the consultation meetings are as follows:

- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Neither any documentary proof for the payment of the contribution of Afghanistan for the year 2017 nor any money transfer was confirmed by the representative of Halkbank. Therefore, it was decided that the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran would follow up on this matter and inform the ECI of any relevant transfer.
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan – Regarding the unpaid contribution for the year 2018, no documentary proof was presented in the aforementioned consultation meetings, and the unpaid contribution for the year 2018 is still considered Pakistan's debt to the ECI.
- Republic of Tajikistan – After scrutinizing the available pertinent documents at the ECO Secretariat, it was found that there is no discrepancy in the table of arrears provided by the ECI in the current meeting. So, the total amount of Tajikistan's arrears as mentioned in the table is correct.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan referred to the total amount of Tajikistan's arrears mentioned in the table and noted that the ECI had been repeatedly requested over the two past years to provide details about the amount of arrears for each year. The details are required to clarify how the arrears have been accumulated over the past years.

He again requested the ECI to provide a document outlining the exact amount of Tajikistan's debt for each year until 2013. The document will help the Embassy to follow up on the issue with relevant authorities.

ECI Executive Director responded that the ECI has reviewed the pertinent documents available at the ECO Secretariat and compared them in detail with the existing records at the ECI. As a result, it was learnt that most of the figures match with each other. However, he suggested that a representative from the Embassy of Tajikistan may be designated to check the documents available at the ECI and ECO Secretariat. He also noted that the Ambassador of Tajikistan had proposed in the previous meeting that the Government of Tajikistan is ready to increase its annual contribution to settle its outstanding arrears with the ECI.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan clarified that he had requested that Tajikistan's arrears debt (until the year 2013) would be written off. In that case, Tajikistan would be willing to raise its annual contribution to the ECI's budget. contribution. Anyway, it did not mean that Tajikistan would pay off its outstanding arrears by increasing its annual contribution.

The Ambassador explained that although a report on the details of the arrears of Tajikistan was recently received by the Embassy of Tajikistan from the ECI but the report accounts for only

367,000 USD while according to the table provided by the Institute in the current meeting the outstanding arrears of Tajikistan amounts to approximately 406,000 USD.

He again asked for more details on a yearly basis by the ECI because no supporting proof for the total amount of Tajikistan's arrears was found by the relevant authorities in Tajikistan.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Republic of Tajikistan may submit a written request to the ECI-CPR for the write-off of the outstanding arrears of Tajikistan and readiness for increasing its scale of contribution to the ECI, in order to be incorporated in the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. The issue would be deliberated at the ECI-CPR meeting which would be held before the next meeting of the BoT. Meanwhile, he requested the ECI to provide accurate details on Tajikistan's arrears so that the issue would be resolved at the ECI-CPR meeting and necessary decision on the write-off of the arrears would be made at the BoT meeting (expected to be held in 2023).

He also added that by accession of Türkiye to the ECI, the scale of assessment of contributions of the member states would be altered and it would be a chance to change Tajikistan's scale as well.

ECI Executive Director supported the above-mentioned proposal. and clarified that the annual Audit Reports on the accounts of the ECI would be considered as the main reference resource for calculation of Tajikistan's outstanding arrears.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan designated Mr. Bahrom Azimov, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Tajikistan in Tehran to cooperate with the ECI to solve the issue.

ECI President elaborated that there had been ambiguities in the issue and for the sake of clarity, the ECI staff had been working hard to discover more details on a yearly basis. It is hoped that the details would be finalized in coming days and the Council would be briefed on this issue in the next ECI-CPR meeting.

Chair, as the Representative of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, referred to the arrears of Pakistan for the annual contribution in 2018 and explained that the Embassy is following up the issue to track the payment since Pakistan had made it to the Halkbank through Pakistan's National Bank. Therefore, it could be retrieved and paid to the ECI. He also declared that the ECI will be informed as soon as the situation is rectified and Pakistan's contribution for the year 2018 would be cleared. He also assured that the remaining arrears of Pakistan for the other years would be settled soon as well.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed hope that as the member state would take over the chairpersonship of the ECI (from January 2023 onward), more effort would be put into the process of the payment of its arrears.

- Consideration and adoption of the ECI's draft budget for the year 2023

The ECI's draft budget for the year 2023 was circulated among the member states via Note No. ECI/402/532 dated November 30, 2022.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to page 9 of the draft proposed budget and noted that the budget deficit would be discovered at the end of the year not at the time when the budget is proposed. The phrase "budget deficit" should be changed to "other resources" or "non-budgetary resources" if there is a likelihood that the mentioned amount would be realized. Otherwise, it should not be reflected in the proposed budget as the deficit.

He also referred to the imbalance between the amount earmarked for the cultural activities (only \$45,000 out of the total budget) and the rest of budget heads. He expressed hope that all the member states increase their annual contributions to the ECI's budget, so that more budget could be allocated for cultural activities.

He also queried whether 'Purchase of a New Iranian Car' as mentioned in the budget is the same with the agenda sub item "Purchase of new vehicles by ECI".

ECI Executive Director also hoped that more contributions from the member states would be received in the coming years, so that the ECI would be able to raise the cultural activities budget. Regarding the budget deficit, he clarified that a considerable amount of the deficit is due to the decisions about the posts at the ECI made by the ECI-CPR in the past years. These decisions were taken without seeking the Institute's views/observations and provision of required funds. He requested the member states to kindly consider the above observation of the ECI when deciding on new posts in the future.

He also added that in order to decrease the deficit and to shrink its expenditures on the base of thrift, the two posts of Assistant Directors were excluded from the estimate for the staff salary table until the posts are occupied by the nominees from the member states.

Confirming the points raised by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he also added that the host country had been providing the Institute with extra-budgetary (voluntary) contributions in order to expand the ECI's activities while the other members' contributions have been remained the same throughout a decade. There should be reforms in the contributions of the member states. The ECI plans to make arrangements in such a way that the payments of the member states would be in accordance with the determined scale of assessment of contribution.

In response to the query raised by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the 'Purchase of a New Iranian Car', he said that the Institute decided to buy an inexpensive Iranian car for its daily routines.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran then referred to page 9 of the proposed budget: "Despite the ratification of the Charter of the ECI by the Republic of Türkiye, no annual contribution for the new member state was taken into calculation until the new scale of assessment of contribution by the member states, mentioned in the proposed budget to the budget

of the Institute is determined by the ECI-CPR.” and noted that the Republic of Türkiye is already considered a member state of the ECI since the country deposited the Instrument of Ratification with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country a several months ago. Therefore, the scale of assessment of the contribution by the member states should be revised and instead of four members, as mentioned in the proposed budget, five member states should be taken into account.

Chair noted that since the Republic of Türkiye is not represented in the current meeting while some agenda items are related to the member state as well, the observations/views from Türkiye could be sought following the circulation of the report of the current meeting. As the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, he supported the proposal made by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to taking into consideration of the Republic of Türkiye as a member state in the ECI’s proposed budget.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan asked whether the Republic of Türkiye has submitted any document to the ECI regarding its accession to the Institute.

ECI Executive Director noted that a copy of the Instrument of Ratification was received by the Institute from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country. The ECI also considers the Republic of Türkiye as a member state. Thus, the member state was invited to the 35th meeting of the ECI-CPR but the Embassy of Türkiye was not represented in the said meeting.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that according to standard international procedures a country would be a member state to an international organization after 30 days or so of the receipt of its Instrument of Ratification by the depository country. The ECI should take into account a contribution from Türkiye in its budget and organize cultural events for the country in partnership with the Embassy as well.

ECI President clarified that some cultural events had been planned by the ECI to be implemented in cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye during the year 2022. The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye was officially informed of such activities. Despite dire financial constraints, the Institute has repeatedly conveyed to the Republic of Türkiye its readiness for mutual cooperation. However, the Institute planned various activities not only for Türkiye but also for all the member states while some of them were not realized.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan referred to the cultural activities budget and noted that it is a very modest amount. He supported the idea of inclusion of the contribution of the Republic of Türkiye (equal in amount with the other founding member states) to the ECI’s budget so that more funds could be allocated to cultural activities of the Institute.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that a fixed amount of contribution for each member states would be determined for the ECI’s budget for the year 2023(\$171,500 by the ECO founding member states and \$57,165 by the non-founding ECO member states) until further notice.

The ECI-CPR urged the Institute to revise its proposed budget for the year 2023, incorporating all the amendments proposed by the Council. In the absence of the ECI Board

of Trustees (BoT) meeting, the ECI-CPR decided to obtain the approval of the BoT for the ECI Draft Proposed Budget for the year 2023 through a two-week silence procedure. Accordingly, if no objection is received within the time period, the Budget will be considered as adopted.

- Purchase of new vehicles by ECI

ECI briefed the Council that the Institute traded in its two cars.

ECI's Accounts Officer elaborated that the above issue was conveyed to the esteemed member states via Note Verbale No. ECI/536-312/12 dated July 3, 2022 and the replacement of the cars was carried out under silence procedure while no objection received from the member states. In this regard, price quotes from three reputable car dealers were obtained and through a contract with the dealer who submitted the best offer (Ista Negin Binaloud Company) on 18.08.2022, two used cars of the Institute including 2007 Toyota Camry GL2500 and 2011 Lexus ES 350 were traded in for two new vehicles (2022 Mitsubishi Montero and 2021 Peugeot 508 Allure). It is worth mentioning that the trade-in incurred no cost for the Institute.

- Consideration of Report of Cultural Donations to the ECI

Referring to the decision of the 35th meeting of the ECI- CPR in which the Council authorized the Institute to offer its facilities to the diplomatic missions and receive their cultural donations, as well as the Article 7 of the Charter and Article 10-2 of the Financial Regulations of the Institute related to using donations, ECI's Accounts Officer explained that the funds raised through donations by the embassies of non-member states and international organizations are kept in a special account. Such funds are used for maintenance of the facilities and equipping the amphitheater and gallery as well as payment for the service of the member of the ECI staff who help in organization of events.

The details of the received donations are as follows:

1. 500 dollars received from the Embassy of Bangladesh for the ceremony of the National Day of Bangladesh on 12 May 12.2022
2. 500 euros received from the Embassy of the Czech Republic for the cultural event on 17 October 2022.
3. 1000 euros received from the Embassy of Slovak Republic for holding the painting exhibition "Born from Fire" for one week from 3 to 10 November 2022

B. The expenses met by the above funds:

1. 55,000,000 Rials equivalent to 160 dollars was spent for the local employees' services.

Agenda item 5

Transfer of the Chairpersonship of the Council of Permanent Representatives of the ECI

Chair, in the capacity of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed that since the December is almost at the end, the transfer of the chairpersonship could take place at the current meeting.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran clarified that in normal situation the chairpersonship should have transferred to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. But owing to the special situation of Afghanistan, the chairpersonship would be transferred to the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, obtaining the approval of the ECI Board of Trustees (BoT) / the Council of Ministers (COM) under silence procedure is needed.

Finally, the Council made the following decision:

Keeping in view the special situation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the 36th meeting of the ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (ECI-CPR), on behalf of the ECI Board of Trustees (BoT) decided that Afghanistan's opportunity for holding the chairpersonship of the ECI will be postponed to a proper time in the future. Hence the chairpersonship of the ECI will be transferred from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran (effective as of January 1, 2023) under silence procedure if no objection is raised by the esteemed member states within 14 days.

Agenda item 6

The scale of Assessment of Contribution by Member States to the budget of the ECI

Taking into account the accession of the Republic of Türkiye to the ECI, the scale of assessment of contribution by member states to the budget of the Institute was discussed.

Based on the proposal of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ECI-CPR decided that a fixed amount of due contribution for the ECI member states shall be determined and reflected accordingly in the revised budget of the ECI for the year 2023. The amount of the contribution by the ECO founding member states, i.e., the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye will be the same.

A Working Group will be established to discuss the new Scale of Assessment of Contribution by the member states to the ECI's budget for the year 2024.

Agenda item 7

Administrative matters:

- Distribution of posts at the ECI

ECI Executive Director explained that there were two vacant posts of Assistant Director at the ECI which were supposed to be occupied by nominations from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Since the post of the President would be held by the nomination from Pakistan, one of the posts of Assistant Director would remain available to be filled by the nomination from the Republic of Türkiye.

He further noted that all the posts available at the ECI could be held by nominations from the member states by rotation.

Agenda item 8

Chair, as the Representative of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan briefed the Council that the issue has been followed up with the concerned authorities in Pakistan but due to paucity of time, regrettably the member states is not in a position to hold the 7th meeting of the ECI Board of Trustees (BoT) during its chairpersonship of the ECI.

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the situation in Pakistan which was created by flood and Covid-19 pandemic and prevented the country from holding the BoT meeting is understandable.

As informed by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to host the upcoming BoT meeting as soon as the member state holds the chairpersonship of the ECI. It is hoped that the meeting would be held in the first half of the year 2023.

Agenda item 9

Any other business

No matter raised under this agenda item.

Agenda item 10

Date and venue of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be fixed and informed after consultation with the member states.

Annex-I

**The 36th Meeting of
The ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

List of Participants

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Abdul Ghani Farahi, Second Secretary and in charge of ECO and Economic Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Dr. Seyed Jalaeddin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General, Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Khavari, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Dr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador
- Mr. Bahrom Azimov, Second Secretary

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Mr. Murodjun Buriboev, President
- H.E. Dr. Esmaeili fard, Executive Director
- Ms. Mirbagheri, External Relations
- Mr. Sayed Javad Mirkazemian, Accounts Officer
- Mr. Shah Mansur Khojeov, Tajikistan's Desk Officer
- Ms. Mahtab Sahel, Afghanistan's Desk Officer
- Mr. Mehdi Omranejad, Expert
- Ms. Farzaneh Skandarian

ECO Secretariat:

- Mr. Amir Mohammad Javaheri, Translator