

Draft Report
of the 33rd Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR)
(ECI Headquarters, 1 June 2021)

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) convened its 33rd meeting at the ECO Headquarters on 8 March 2021. The meeting was started under the chairpersonship of Mr. Bahrom Azimov, representative of the Republic of Tajikistan and later under the agenda item 5, the chairpersonship was transferred to Mr. Ali Anser Zaidi , Deputy Head of Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran. The Meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as a delegation of the ECO Cultural Institute. (List of Participants is enclosed as **Annex. I**).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the Agenda

- The draft agenda of the meeting which had been circulated among Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/208 dated 12 May 2021, 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:
 - Consideration and Adoption of the Audit Report on the ECI's Accounts for the years 2019 & 2020
 - Latest status of contributions and arrears of the ECI member states
5. Administrative matters:
 - Transfer of the Chairpersonship of Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (As approved by the 32nd ECI-CPR)
6. Consideration and adoption of ECI's proposed/planned activities/programs (List enclosed as *Annex II*)
7. Any other Business,
8. Date and venue of the next meeting.

Agenda item 2

Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the previous ECI-CPR meeting

- The draft report of the 32nd ECI-CPR meeting which had been circulated among the Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/856 dated 14 March 2021 was adopted.

Agenda item 3

Statement by ECI President

H.E. Sarvar Bakhti, ECI President made the following statement:

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ambassadors and Representatives of the ECO Member States ,
Ladies and Gentlemen ,**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your attendance in this meeting.

Excellencies,

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

ECO Cultural Institute held the celebration of “Nowruz, an Occasion for Solidarity” in March to mark the arrival of spring and to promote solidarity and friendship among the peoples of the ECO region. The event yielded a spectacular attendance; present at the meeting were President of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Ambassadors of Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and a group of ambassadors and diplomats from other countries. The celebration was also well received by a great number of enthusiast on social media.

To pay tribute to the cultural and literary figures of the ECO region, ECI holds series of commemoration ceremonies, participated scholar, researchers and authors from various ECO member states. In this regard, ECI organized an international virtual round-table meeting titled "Attar in the Horizon of Literature and Poetry of ECO Region". The meeting was attended by prominent scholars from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Iran who discussed thoughts and works of this world-renowned Persian poet.

With the aim of recognizing the art of inscription in the ECO region, ECO Cultural Institute and Yazd University held a webinar on Kufic inscriptions in the cities of Yazd in Iran and Herat in Afghanistan. At the webinar, scholars and professors explored the characteristics of Kufic inscriptions in the historical monuments of the previously mentioned cities.

Also, on the occasion of Persian Language Day and Ferdowsi Commemoration Day in Iran and aiming at promotion of common languages in the ECO region, ECI in association with Saadi Foundation held a webinar on May 15, 2021. At the webinar scholars from almost all the ECO Member States including: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan,

Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan made speeches on the status of Persian language in their respective countries. Also, Dr. Haddad Adel and ambassadors of Afghanistan and Tajikistan graced the event with their statements.

Furthermore, on the 110th birth anniversary of Mirzo Tursunzoda, people's poet and national hero of Tajikistan, an international webinar in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran, titled "Poet of Peace and Friendship" were held on Thursday 20 May 2021. At the webinar, President of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature of Iran, Ambassador of Tajikistan in Iran, prominent researchers and scholar and celebrated poets and authors of the ECO region discussed the personality characteristics and works of this great poet.

Excellencies,

As it was informed at the last ECI-CPR meeting, ECI is planning to establish "ECO Friendship House" in the historic city of Kashan to advance the objectives envisaged in the Charter of ECO Cultural Institute and to promote tourist attractions of the ECO member states. In this regard, we are following up the issue with the authorities of Kashan and the arrangements are in progress so that the Friendship House will soon be inaugurated in a ceremony to be attended by the delegations of the esteemed member states. Also the annual action plan of the House will be proposed in the near future.

Furthermore, following our agreement for mutual cooperation with Jundi Shapoor University in historical city of Dezful, the Municipality of the city will name one of the squares of the city as ECO Sqaure and the flags as well as the busts of literary figures of the ECO member states will be placed in the square as a gesture to connote friendship and brotherhood.

Distinguished colleagues,

As you are well aware, clothing traditions are among key elements of cultural heritage of the ECO Region. To preserve such traditions and to promote fashion and clothing events, ECI has inked a MoU with Chiamod Art Institute

Above all the mentioned activities, ECI has contributed and participated in the following events: Commemoration of the eminent Tajik Poet, Loiqa Sherah, held by India-Iran Group and participated by scholars from India, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan to mark his 80th birth anniversary; The 1st international conference in Industrial Markering; The opening ceremony of the first "Culture Garden" of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding publications of ECI, we recently held an online book launch for three books written by Pakistani authors. The books included: "دستور کامل و آموزش زبان اردو", (a complete handbook of Urdu language and grammar for Persian speakers) written by the late Dr. Shahid Choudhary with a foreword by the honorable Ambassador of Pakistan in Iran, which has been republished by ECI because it is much in demand as a reference for university students and researchers; A collection of Minimal Stories under the title "Word Tree" written by Mubasher Ali Zaidi and translated into Persian by the Pakistani poet, Ahmad Shahriar; and a Persian poetry collection titled "Pirhan Gom Karde'am", by the same Pakistani poet, Ahmad Shahriar.

In addition, we have published a book titled “Archeology of the Iron Age, Early Civilizations of Afghanistan” by Professor Mohammad Rasool Bawari. Also, the book “Intangible cultural Heritage in the ECO Region” will be published by the Institute in coming days.

In addition, to promote literature of Pakistan, as a founding member states of the Institute, in the ECO Region and beyond, we have started a project for publishing a poetry collection of female Pakistani Poets.

Another book to be published in the near future is titled “Comparative Bibliography of Hindo-Khorasani Music” written by the prominent Afghan scholar, Dr. Assadollah Shour.

Furthermore, at the proposal of the Government and the Embassy of Tajikistan, we have dedicated a special issue of our quarterly journal, ECO Heritage, to Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan.

Dushanbe has been declared as the tourist capital of the ECO region in 2020-2021.

We have already received proposals for the next two issues of the journal to be dedicated to city of Khiva in Uzbekistan and city of Sheki in Azerbaijan.

The other esteemed ECO Member States may also propose to ECI to publish special issues of the journal on their top historic cultural cities or any other subject of their interest.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We also have the honor to inform that our new website has been launched which uses state-of-the-art technology and provides exclusive pages for promotion of culture and tourism of each ECO member states. The content of these pages has been extracted from the “ECO Tourist Guide Book”, published by ECI in 2009. Therefore, we hope all the ECO member states help ECI to keep the exclusive page of their respective countries updated. We would like to invite the esteemed member states to visit our new website and convey their views and comments. Also, we are compiling different data banks in area of culture and arts of the member states to be available on our new website for further acquaintance with the ECO Region and the ECO member states.

Excellencies,

Regarding our plans for the future, as you see on the agenda item 6 and the annexed table, we have proposed activities for consideration and approval of the distinguished members of ECI-CPR.

Anyway, I would like to underline our plan for the third ECO Photo & Poster Festival scheduled to be held from June to October 2021. The Call for Entries and further details will be conveyed in due course. We hope that the Festival is well- received by all the ECO Member States.

Also, we are pleased to announce that ECI will soon ink a MoU with the authorities in charge of the ECO Park and has made necessary arrangements for holding programs or events by the esteemed member states. The park was officially opened in November 2013 in Tehran, on the sidelines of the 21st meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (CoM). The park is part of a grand cultural center located in Abbas Abad Hills, a large north-central neighborhood of Tehran. The proposal to build ECO-Park was approved at the 3rd ECI Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2007. The ECO Park was constructed by the Iranian Abbas Abad Renovation Company, an affiliate of Tehran Municipality.

The esteemed member states are highly encouraged to propose events or programs to be held in the ECO Park. Also, I would like to invite the distinguished Ambassadors of the ECI to kindly take part in the signing ceremony of the aforementioned MoU to be held on June 9, 2021.

Dear Colleagues,

Today, we will observe the transfership of the chairpersonship of the Council of Permanent Representatives of the ECO Cultural Institute. We welcome the new Chair of this Council and assures our utmost cooperation.

Excellencies,

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

Thank you.

All the member states expressed their appreciation for the wide range of activities organized by ECI.

Agenda item 4

Budgetary matters:

- Consideration and Adoption of the Audit Report on the ECI's Accounts for the years 2019 & 2020
- Latest status of contributions and arrears of the ECI member states

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: referred to the table provided by ECI reflecting the outstanding arrears and unpaid contributions of the ECI member states and explained that the contribution of Afghanistan for the year 2020 is considered unpaid and consequently has been added to the total unpaid arrears of Afghanistan. He further noted that although this audit report is for the years 2019 and 2020, and Afghanistan's contribution for the year 2020 was paid in March 2021, it would be highly appreciated if ECI kindly add some clarification to its corresponding comment to clarify that the payment has been already made.

He also provided some explanation regarding the payment of Afghanistan's annual due contribution for the year 2017. He explained that although in the said table the contribution is considered unpaid, Afghanistan has remitted 57,165 US dollar as its contribution to the International Bank to be transferred to the account of ECO Secretariat at the Halkbank, a bank in Turkey. But since this account was closed, unfortunately the money was halted and the concerned authorities of Afghanistan are still making efforts to retrieve the amount. Thus, from Afghanistan's point of view, the contribution for the year 2017 is considered already paid. Therefore, it's just a technical problem which needs to be resolved so that the contribution will be transferred to ECI's account.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: briefed the meeting that the same transfer problem has happened for the contribution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the years 2018 and 2019 and the issue is being followed up with the concerned authorities. He further noted that

The financial year in Pakistan ends in June. So it is hoped that in this June contribution of Pakistan will be paid.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran: assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran do understand the very critical situation that the Institute is facing. The concerned authorities will do their best to clear the outstanding arrears of Iran as soon as possible. The issue is being followed up with the Central Bank of Iran.

He noted that there are multifaceted problems, including sanctions, dollar exchange rate and the like. He further assured that the ministry of foreign Affairs of Iran will keep ECI posted and will inform the Institute when Iran's contribution could be received by the Institute.

Regarding Audit Report on ECI's accounts for the years 2019 and 2020, he appreciated the audit board for their good job and thanked ECI and its President for the comments made responding to the audit board's concerns, promising to observe the required rules and regulations and meet their expectations. He, however, emphasized that a gap always exists between the expectations of the audit board and the performance of any organization and ECI is no exception, while the management of the Institute has been making every effort to fulfil such expectations.

He declared that it is understandable that some concerns and observations made by the audit board goes back to the previous management of the Institute. Since the Institute was previously managed by an Iranian national, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran is willing to address any observation in the audit report that could be related to the previous management. If required by the audit board, such observations would be conveyed to the concerned authorities to receive proper response. It could be seen that some problems still exist, inherited from the past and not related to the incumbent administration of the Institute. Certainly ECI is able to meet not only the expectations of the audit board but also the expectation of the member states for providing sound and solid financial records.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: referred to the paragraph 4 of ECI's comments responding to the audit board's observation and noted that all the member states are in arrears but Pakistan has been singled out in the ECI's comments. ECI was requested to kindly consider modifying the wording of the paragraph.

President of ECI thanked for the views and comments of all the member states on the audit report and assured that ECI will take them into consideration.

He also requested all the members states to kindly take necessary measures for acceleration in their payments.

It is to be noted that late or non-payment of the due contributions has made it impossible for the Institute to continue functioning. Now our funds does not even pay utilities bills and we have no other alternative than to shut down the Institute temporarily until we receive some contribution from a member state.

Agenda item 5

Administrative matters:

- Transfer of the Chairpersonship of Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (As approved by the 32nd ECI-CPR)

Under this agenda item, the chairpersonship of Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR) was transferred to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Chair: assured that Pakistan during its chairpersonship will put all efforts to make this Institute as functional as possible. He stressed that payment of contributions by the member states is very important and Pakistan is working on it as well. An organization cannot function without finances. He further noted that the Pakistan Embassy has worked out a number of cultural activities that will be undertaken all along the year. These activities will be implemented in consultation with ECI in a way to be mutually beneficial for the entire ECO region. It is hoped to achieve more progress and make the activities of ECI more effective.

Regarding the Audit report, The Chair referred to some points in that and stressed that financial reforms will be among the objectives to be pursued for the sake of greater clarity. He commended ECI's willingness to make changes required by the audit board in its accounting procedures.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran: congratulate Pakistan for assumption of the chairpersonship and extended gratitude to the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran for a very able chairpersonship. He assured the support of the host country for an effective and productive chairpersonship. He spelled out some technical issue that the transfer of the Chairpersonship should not be discussed under the administrative matters agenda item of ECI and it is considered a matter of the policy making and must be at the beginning or end of the agenda of the meeting. He also noted that although it is understandable that the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is having a tight work schedule but it is hoped that the next ECI-CPR meeting will be held under the leadership of the Ambassador himself.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: appreciated the congratulations extended by the other member states on assumption of the Chair by Pakistan, and emphasized that it is a very important landmark that this Council has managed to follow the footprints of the ECO Secretariat in terms of routine rotation of the Chairpersonship at ECI-CPR as well. It will involve more political commitment and involvement of the member states on regular basis.

He further noted that holding of the 7th meeting of Board of Trustees(BoT) is long overdue. Pakistan is already prioritizing it, unfortunately it couldn't be held in 2019 because it couldn't be rescheduled after the quorum was not achieved during that time. So hopefully after the COVID-19 situation improves that would be the best opportunity to organize it with the participation of all honorable ministers from the member states.

He briefed the meeting that Ambassador has been invited to join the second parliamentary assembly of Iran and Pakistan which is being held in Islamabad, Pakistan but he was keen to take

part in this meeting. The Ambassador, however, has made it a top-notch point to focus on settlement of arrears and hopefully it will be done before the next ECI-CPR.

Agenda item 6

- Consideration and adoption of ECI's proposed/planned activities/programs (List enclosed as *Annex II*)

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran: emphasized that there should be more details of ECI's programs and activities and only a table like what is provided, cannot be comprehensible. He further referred to the 4th item on the list of planned activities and made an enquiry about Hima Arts and Crafts Supplies. He noted that a search about Hima reveals that it is an Iranian art gallery. He further elaborated that taking into consideration the activities proposed by the Institute in the last ECI-CPR meeting and the new planned programs provided in the ongoing meeting, it seems that some Iranian private companies which are active in the fields of arts and culture are involved in the proposed activities of ECI. Selection process and the relevant modality for partnership with such companies should be submitted for consideration by the ECI-CPR.

Moreover, there are some proposals for signing MoUs with these companies. As already highlighted in the last meeting, he reiterated that Iran is a member state of ECI, and there is official focal point for EC, therefore numerous MoUs, whether with public or with private entities, are not necessary.

He further noted that new companies and new partners of ECI are proposed by the Institute without providing information to and seeking consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed that the Ministry as the official authority should be informed.

He also requested further details on the item 7 of the proposed activities: "First Meeting of Craft Artists of the ECO Region".

He elaborated that there many similar events and meetings within ECO, on craftsmen, on artists, on cultural issue, so, why this event is named the first meeting. Moreover, there are meetings between crafts organizations of the ECO member states which are organized by the ECO.

He referred to the deliberations of the last ECI-CPR meeting and a shop with the name "ECO Art" supposed to sell crafts of the ECO region, and stressed that the idea of "First Meeting of Craft Artists of the ECO Region" is very similar to the idea of opening the aforesaid shop. He added that the Ministry is not informed of what has happened to the shop.

Furthermore, he also requested more information on the item 5 of the proposed activities: "ECI's Friendship Ambassadors program".

He referred to MoU to be signed between ECI and the authority of the ECO Park and called it a valuable credit for the ECI President and the chairmanship of Pakistan that the Park is going to be revitalized after a long period of inactivity since it was inaugurated in 2013.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: also supported the idea that there should be more details and information about the programs planned or proposed by ECI. He spelled out that the embassies of the member states receive the proposed programs by ECI, they have to transmit it to the relevant ministry of their respective country for their understanding and support. Thus, it will be more convenient if there is an explanation on how this program assist, what is the main

idea. For instance, there should be an explanatory note on any MoU to explain what is supposed to be achieved from the MoU and how the member states can make best use of it

He also made an inquiry whether the proposed activities by ECI are in addition to the its annual Calendar of Events/ Work Program. What are the difference between this list of proposed program and the Calendar of Events already approved?

President of ECI thanked for the views and comments of all the member states and elaborated that there proosed programs are in addition to the programs already approved in the last ECO Regional Planning Council as ECI's annual Calendar of Events. The new programs have been submitted to the ECI-CPR for approval by the council.

In response to the enquiries by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President highlighted that ECI cooperates with other cultural organizations to advance the objectives envisaged in the Charter of the Institute. ECI receives many proposals from such organizations but makes partnership with those that propose events which fall within the scope of its Charter.

He assured that more details will be provided regarding the ECI's proposed programs.

On ECI's Friendship Ambassadors Program, the President briefed the meeting that it is a program similar to what is carried out by UNESCO under the title of Goodwill Ambassadors. ECI's Friendship Ambassadors program has been planned to elevate publicity of ECO Cultural Institute and to enhance visibility of cultural programs of the ECO member states. Once appointed, these personalities agree to use their talent and fame to carry ECI goals and attempt to promote ECI programs and activities. ECI's Friendship Ambassadors are designated by the Institute for a period of two years, which may be renewed. Individuals invited to serve as ECI's Friendship Ambassadors shall:

- Be widely recognized for their talent and accomplishments in the arts, culture, literature, sport or other fields of public life;
- Be persons of integrity who demonstrate a strong desire to help mobilize public interest in, and support for, the goals and objective of the ECO cultural Institute, and who demonstrate the commitment and proven potential to reach out to significant audiences, including decision-makers;
- Possess the personality and dignity required to act in the capacity of a high-level representative;
- Information on ECI's programs is regularly shared with Ambassadors of Friendship and mutual cooperation is facilitated by a Plan of Action established in liaison with each personality. These Plans of Action include activities related to one or several of ECI's activities and all communication aspects.

He noted that ECI welcomes the views and observations of the esteemed member states on this program.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran: referred to the ECI's Friendship Ambassadors Program and asked whether a candidate list of all countries has been prepared, if not, what is the idea on how to propose it. He requested the Institute to provide further details on this Program in

writing so that it could be discussed in the next meeting of ECI-CPR. Anyway, that it is a very good idea because the visibility of the organization is quite important, but there should be some added value in any initiative like this. Also it should be conducted carefully to start from a sound basis. Furthermore, it must be done through complete coordination and consultation with the governments of the member states.

Referring to the new programs proposed by ECI in addition to its Calendar of Events approved by the last RPC meeting, he raised that question that why ECI should propose extra programs. It is not true that ECI proposes new programs every single month. If there is one specific annual Calendar of Events, it would be more convenient for the member states to follow.

A clear modality should be proposed to ECI-CPR for addition of more programs to the list already approved by the RPC meeting.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: supported the observations raised by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and added that the member states should leave a margin for the President of ECI to add more programs and also any member state may feel the need at anytime to propose more programs. But of course the main priority remains to attach to the program and activities approved by the RPC.

The Chair stressed that more coordination and consultation between ECI and the member states is required. It is needed that more details is provided by ECI regarding its programs and activities and the objectives are outlined. One of the observations raised by the Audit Board in the aforementioned audit report was that the cultural activities that the ECI undertakes needs to be submitted with more explanation that how tangible they were in achieving the results or the envisaged objectives. That is why Pakistan as the new Chair of this Council, emphasizes on transparency. With more coordination and consultation, the transparency could be enhanced.

The ECI_CPR approved the three programs proposed by ECI to be held in June 2021 and the rest of the programs will be pending until more details is provided to the member states. The remaining programs will be considered in the next ECI-CPR meeting.

President of ECI assured that more details regarding the ECI's proposed programs will be provided in the near future.

He clarified that due to the current situation caused by Coronavirus pandemic, organization of most programs already approved by the RPC meeting was not possible, for example, a Qawwali music Performance to be staged by prominent Pakistani singers, had been planned and approved as an item in our annual Calendar of Events but it was cancelled. Therefore ECI has proposed new programs to be held in lieu of the approved events and continue its activities.

Agenda item 7

Any other business

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: informed that the Ministry of Information and Culture of Afghanistan has propose that after the Islamic Republic of Pakistan based on

alphabetical order the chairmanship might be handed over to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, for the term 2023- 2024.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the proposal raised by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He briefed the meeting that if the chairpersonship is transferred on rotational basis, after Pakistan, it goes to Tajikistan again. Hence, Tajikistan will have held the chairpersonship for two terms which are too close to each other. Therefore it is proposed that the new order for the chairpersonship of the member states will be as follows: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, unless a new member state joins ECI, then a new decision should be made on the rotational order.

He informed that some good news have been recently received that three ECO member states including : Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have shown interest in accession to ECI. He requested the ECI President and the new chairpersonship to take the issue into consideration more seriously and make consultation meetings with the authorities of the abovementioned countries. He hoped that ECI will be a 10-member organization within a few years.

President of ECI: assured that ECI is making every effort for encouraging the other ECO member states to join ECI or ratify its charter. The Institute is in close cooperation with the embassies of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and is attempting to acquaint them with its potentials. To this end, ECI has dedicated some special issue of its quarterly journal, ECO Heritage, to promote their tourism, and a proposed city in particular. He noted that ECI will continue its activities in this regard.

The Chair: urged all the member states to actively pursue and work for it to expand the membership of ECI.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran declared that it is very encouraging that the ECI President has already started this, but it is required that the mandate should be given by the member states to the president and the championship to follow up the issue. In addition to consultation meetings, raising the issue in the CPR of the ECO Secretariat could be another solution. consultation. When the chairperson is mandated to do so, he can also ask the concerned authorities to follow up the issue with their counterparts in non-meber countries.

He hoped that the member states in cooperation with the chairperson of ECI-CPR and the President of ECI can assist the Institute to expand its membership until all the 10 ECO member states have joined the Institute.

The Chair supported the observation of the Islamic Republic of Iran that members of ECO should also be the members of ECI, especially because of the linkages and the cultural, linguistic and religious commonalities. He assured that all the member states will be working hand-in-hand dor enlargement of the ECI's membership.

Agenda item 8

Date and venue of the next meeting

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that as the host country, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran is considering holding some meetings of ECO CPR and ECI CPR outside Tehran in other cities. Anyway, it depends on climate conditions and hospitality provided by the host cities. He emphasized that it's a plan for the future but not necessarily for the next meeting of ECI or ECO CPR.

The Council decided that the ECI-CPR meetings will be convened regularly on a monthly basis and ECI will fix the date of the meetings after consultation with the member states.

Annex-I

**The 33rd Meeting of the
ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

List of Participants

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- H.E. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Liwal, Ambassador
- 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 Jaleddin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General, Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Ghaderi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Ali Anser Zaidi, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Mian Azmat Farooq, Deputy Head of Mission /First Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Bahrom Azimov, Second Secretary

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Sarvar Bakhti, President
- Ms. Mirbagheri, External Relations
- Mr. Sayed Javad Mirkazemian, Accounts Officer
- Mr. Shah Mansur Khojeov, Tajikistan's Desk Officer
- Ms. Masuma Nazari, Afghanistan's Desk Officer
- Mr. Mehdi Omranejad, Expert
- Ms. Nastaran Nosratzadegan, Interpreter

Annex II

ECI's Proposed/Planned Activities/Programs

	Program	Date	Venue
1	"Varagh-i Husn" (ورق حسن) Book launch	June	Online
2	Persian Calligraphy Handwriting Course	June	Online
3	Webinar for Commemoration of Abdulhai Habibi, a prominent Afghan historian	June	Online
4	Second International Festival of "Nakh O Negareh" (Thread and Pattern) in partnership with Hima Arts and Crafts Supplies	August	Online
5	ECI's Friendship Ambassadors program	-	-
6	The 3 rd ECO Photo & Poster Festival	June-October	-
7	First Meeting of Craft Artists of the ECO Region	TBD	Online