

Islamabad Communiqué
On enhancing scientific, engineering & technological cooperation among the
ECO Member States
(2nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees of ECO Science Foundation)
Islamabad, August 11, 2015

We, the Vice / Deputy Ministers, Diplomats and Experts/Representatives of the relevant authorities of the eight (08) Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) namely; the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan have met here in Islamabad on August 11, 2015 on the occasion of the 2nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation, hosted and chaired by His Excellency Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Bearing in mind that the Treaty of Izmir- the founding document of ECO-envisages the need for enhancing cooperation, inter alia, in the field of Science and Technology in the ECO Region;

Recalling that the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) was signed in Islamabad by all the ten member states of the ECO on the occasion of the third ECO Summit held in March 1995;

Recalling further that the Additional Protocol to the Charter of the ECOSF was adopted by the ECO Council of Ministers at its 17th Session held in Herat, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in October, 2007;

Express our deep satisfaction over the holding of the 2nd Meeting BoT of ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad;

Appreciate the determined and sustained efforts rendered by the Member States, in particular the Government of Pakistan, as well as the ECO Secretariat and the Secretariat of the ECOSF for the activities done since its establishment on December 20, 2011 in Islamabad Pakistan;

Commend the initiatives and programmes begun and the role & status gained by ECOSF in the comity of scientific and technological organizations and forums worldwide;

Reiterate our firm commitment and desire to continue our devoted efforts to make the ECOSF more active, efficient and a result-oriented specialized agency of ECO;

Emphasize on the non-ratifying member states namely; Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkey, and Uzbekistan to expedite the process of ECOSF Charter ratification to become active members of the Foundation;

Call upon all the ratifying member states to make their budgetary contributions timely for smooth running of the Foundation. Also invite the Member States to make

generous voluntary contributions to the "Science and Technology Fund" of the Foundation for initiating joint collaborative research projects in priority areas;

Call on the ECOSF to develop a comprehensive long-term Plan of Action for realization of Foundations' goals as envisioned in the Charter;

Emphasize the need for the ECOSF to give special focus to capacity-building of the scientific and technical human resource with emphasis on **youth engagement**, institutionalizing linkages among the scientific, engineering and research organizations, identifying challenges faced by the member states in technology, undertaking joint research projects of commercial value and, encouraging technology-transfer among the Member States, **contributory towards achievement of UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs) and targets** by the Member States;

Agreed to the need for ECOSF to organize and plan various Regional Conferences on S&T with the assistance of ECO Secretariat, Member States and its international partners and collaborators including UN agencies;

Express our profound thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in particular, the Ministry of Science and Technology for making excellent arrangements for success of the Meeting as well as for extending warm hospitality to the participants.
