



2nd Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) Countries

Volume-3

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Thursday, 3rd June 2021

“PROMOTING PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION”



Dr. Arif Alvi

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan underscored that the PAECO can play a vital role in strengthening relations with ECO members to enhance trade. Though, despite initiatives like the ECO-Vision 2025 approved during the 13th ECO Summit held at Islamabad in 2017; the Intra regional trade of the ECO is approximately US\$ 53 billion. Regional trade is negatively impacted by poor infrastructure and trade and communication inadequacies. The Honourable President expressed his pleasure for the Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Asad Qaiser for bringing together this August Assembly of Members of Parliament (MPs) and high-level parliamentary experts and staffers from all ECO Member states to explore various facets of the imperative conference theme, “Promoting Parliamentary Partnership for Regional Integration.”



Mr. Imran Khan

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Prime Minister in his closing remarks highlighted 21st century as an era of regional development. He underscored that it is not the nations that make progress but the regions collectively. Every country in the region has its own competitive advantage, the member states can tap on the individual potential of each country for regional development. The combined population of the ECO region has an immense potential to emerge as a powerhouse in the world. The resolution on Kashmir and Palestine as an outcome of 2nd General Conference is a highly commendable step. The PAECO platform paves way to enhance bilateral and multilateral communication channels and will help Parliaments to debate on significant challenges faced by the region. Another pertinent issue faced by the ECO member states is climate change. The Prime Minister urged the ECO member states to collectively join hands in a drive to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. The Prime Minister also stressed on peaceful withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan in order to ensure stability in the region.



CLOSING REMARKS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS



H.E. Mr. ASAD QAISER Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan

The Honourable Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan wholeheartedly thanked all the Speakers of the ECO Member Parliaments, who played a phenomenal role in the historic success of 2nd General Conference of PAECO. He also extended his gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, who honored the closing ceremony of the Conference with his kind presence. The Speaker reiterated that the Parliaments of ten ECO member states are all prepared to set foot on the path of prosperity based on our mutual cooperation and trust. Finally, the passage of 'The Islamabad Declaration' is the key historic success of this Conference and a manifestation of joint approach and commonality of thoughts towards redressal of common national and international issues.



H. E. MIR REHMAN REHMANI Speaker, Wolesi Jirga, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The Parliamentary Assembly for Economic Cooperation Organization must continue to work together to control the COVID-19 disease and try new ways to deal with the recession and minimize the damage caused by this pandemic. The customs cooperation agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan has had positive effects in reducing problems, but serious challenges have not yet been removed and thousands of containers of Afghan traders to cross the ports of Pakistan are facing serious problems and it urges that bilateral talks continue in this regard. Terrorism is a major obstacle to economic capacity, cultural and political cooperation. There is a will of ECO nations to resolve the current crisis.



H. E. MS. SAHIBA GAFAROVA Speaker, Mili Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Multilateral cooperation between Parliaments of ECO countries can make a significant contribution to achieve goals of the PAECO. The future holds new opportunities that will lead towards creating development and prosperity of people of the ECO region. The discussions and outcomes of the 2nd General Conference of the PAECO will soon bring about positive feedback.



H. E. DR. M. BAGHER GHALIBAF Speaker, Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran

Formation of committees for transportation, trade and culture is considered to be a positive move in order to bolster regional trade and cooperation and is in line with the objectives of the ECO. It is proposed that an ECO committee be set up in the national parliaments of the regional states to supervise and follow up the ECO activities to serve as its legal support. The Islamabad Declaration includes very important points and their implementation can lead to alleviation of regional cooperation of ECO realm. Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran will leave no stone unturned in utilizing and promoting the role of ECO in its preparedness to support the member states within the PAECO framework.



H. E. MR. MAHMADTOIR ZOKIRZODA Chairman of the Majlisi Oli, Republic of Tajikistan

Currently, the ECO member states have a significant share in the foreign trade of the Republic of Tajikistan but economic ties in the region are limited to import and export transactions only. So, there is room for development of other forms and methods of mutually benefitting cooperation. Tajikistan has removed customs export duties which is in line with the requirement of legislation in the ECO region. Tajikistan proposes creation of proper transit and transport system alongside recreation of ECO free economic zone. Tajikistan is keen to see the ECO demonstrating implementation of regional power trade projects with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.



H.E. MR. NURDINJON ISMOILOV

Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

PAECO was formed on the basis of common ties between the ECO nations and will become an effective platform for regional connectivity. The ECO member states must be ready to overcome any common challenges together. PAECO created favourable conditions for multi and bilateral cooperation to participate in joint projects of commerce and energy. Uzbekistan fully supports the Islamabad Declaration that reflected important matters faced by the PAECO.



H. E. PROF. DR. MUSTAFA ŞENTOP

SPEAKER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY

The PAECO platform provides an opportunity to enhance trade and connectivity, development of tourism and poverty alleviation. The PAECO can play an important role in increasing the social and cultural cooperation between the people of ECO region. The current COVID pandemic is not the first pandemic but has created havoc on the economies and the lives of the people. Highlighting the needs of international solidarity for manifestation of a more humanist world rather than nations becoming introvert. The outcomes of the conference will increase stability in the region and will diversify channels of cooperation between the people and the Parliaments of ECO region.



H. E. MS. GULSHAT MAMMEDOVA

Chairperson of the Mejlis of Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has been able to effectively cooperate with the ECO member states by expanding cooperation with international financial institutions and foreign companies with advanced technologies in various fields. In order to take up the relationship of Turkmenistan with other ECO member states in post pandemic period requires joint consultations, improving legislation, positive practices and the use of new scientific advancements.



BILATERAL MEETING



LUNCH HOSTED BY HONOURABLE DEPUTY SPEAKER



SPECIAL SESSION ON ADVANCING TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION



A special session on "Advancing Tourism for Development and Poverty Alleviation" was organized in the 2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to deliberate various aspects of common aspirations of the ECO member countries on tourism promotion and reducing poverty. The honourable Parliamentarians from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan attended in person while honourable Parliamentarians from Iran and Turkmenistan participated virtually.

Delegates reiterated and jointly put forth key points and recommendations of the session, which are as follows:

- i. ECO member countries' governments must cooperate in all forms of Tourism, which remains as a great driver of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. ECO countries should pool resources to build the capacity of local communities through education and training of local communities especially in livelihoods connected to tourism.
- ii. ECO states must promote religious, cultural and health tourism, which will be possible through enhanced connectivity and development of infrastructure and institutions in the tourist industry of all member states.
- iii. Elimination of terrorism is key to ensuring security in ECO region, which is vital to attract and develop tourist industries.
- iv. Promotion of tourism in all of its legal forms should remain the core focus, both of national policies as well as regionally within the ECO region, to make it a preferred choice of international tourists.
- v. All member states also reiterated the importance of sustainable eco-tourism, which is both a powerful source of perpetual poverty alleviation as well as environmental conservation for our coming generations.
- vi. It was urged and called upon the Executive Council of ECO to formulate a JOINT WORKING GROUP/ COMMITTEE of Members of Parliament so that an institutional arrangement can be established for the joint sharing of resources of the PAECO member states, in the next one year, in the overall context of **ADVANCING TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**.



SESSION ON ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ENHANCING TRADE & CONNECTIVITY



Realizing the importance of trade and economic connections among ECO member countries, an exclusive session was organized on “Role of Parliaments in enhancing Trade & Connectivity” on the second day of the General Conference of PAECO. This session discussed the avenues of collective and continuous parliamentary efforts for alleviation of poverty and prosperity of ECO region. At a time, when pandemic is triggering global economic fallout and world is moving towards trade protectionism; regional trade is no longer an option but a necessity. A case study shed light on successful parliamentary endeavors of National Assembly of Pakistan in relation to improving trade ties with ECO partners. Later on, productive discussions were held in the context of promoting parliamentary partnerships under themes of inter-parliamentary cooperation, trade facilitation and promotion of people to people contacts. First thematic session focused on enhancing intra ECO trade by increasing pace of resolution of outstanding issues between governments, common parliamentary legislation and exchange of information on concerns by various trading sectors through parliaments. Second session urged facilitation of transit trade through trade liberalization, digitalization, infrastructure development and implementation of agreed trade mechanisms under ECO. Parliamentary Assembly vowed to improve people to people contacts through visa liberalization, promotion of tourism and cultural activities during discourse in third session.



PICTURE GALLERY





LIVE FEED

Dr. Arif Alvi @ArifA... · 11h :
My hope regarding a Muslim renaissance is linked to strong leadership, that is Pakistan's destiny. We must rise economically, ensure social justice to our people & unite. Liberation of Palestine & Kashmir is near but it requires return to Islamic principles of morality. Do watch

The President o... · 16h
President Dr. Arif Alvi's speech at the inaugural session of 2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of...

Mustafa Şentop @... · 16h :
Pakistan'daki temaslarımız kapsamında Pakistan Cumhurbaşkanı @ArifAlvi'ye ziyarette bulunduk.

Görüşmede, İslam ülkelerinin meseleleri başta olmak üzere, iki ülke arasındaki ilişkileri ve koronavirüs salgınına ele aldık.



Ali Alizada @Ali_F_Alizada
Wonderful cultural evening for the parliamentary delegations from ECO countries at PNCA, #Islamabad. Colors of #Pakistan.

Salam to #KPK, #Sindh, #Balochistan, #Punjab 🇵🇰



TBMM @TBMMres... · 17h :
TBMM Başkanı Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, Afganistan Halk Meclisi Başkanı Mir Rahman Rahmani ile biraraya geldi.



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Radio Pakistan @R... · 14h :
#Live: Cultural program underway at PNCA, Islamabad. #PAECO_2021



9:46 349 views

Radio Pakistan @RadioPakist...
#Live: Cultural program underway at PNCA, Islar

Munaza Hassan Retweeted
Women's Parliament... · 21h :
Inaugural Session of the 2nd General Conference of Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) being hosted by National Assembly of Pakistan. @NAofPakistan #PAECO_2021 @AsadQaiserPTI @MunazaHassan



Pakistan Embassy... · 14h :
Turkish Parliamentarian @CeydaBC47 lauds fraternal 🇹🇷🇵🇰 fraternal ties in her remarks during 2nd Conference of Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) countries. Long live Pakistan-Turkey brotherhood. #PAECO_2021 @TBMMresmi @NAofPakistan



Muneeb Mehmood @... · 20h :
Parliamentary heads frm Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are in Islamabad for 2nd General Conference of ECO countries. Well done speaker NA @AsadQaiserPTI for this achievement. #PAECO_2021



WEATHER

 36 °C | °F

Precipitation: 0cm
Humidity: 44%
Wind: 11 km/h