

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and**  
**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

**Preamble**

Economic Cooperation Organization (hereinafter: ECO) a regional organization comprising the following member states: Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan; and the United Nations Economic Cooperation for Europe (hereinafter: UNECE), as a regional commission of the United Nations;

Recalling the UNGA Resolutions adopted on cooperation between ECO and the United Nations;

The two respective organizations, ECO and UNECE:

Taking into consideration the objectives of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization to promote and support their efforts towards the development of multilateral regional cooperation;

Noting the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation in order to promote principles and objectives of the United Nations;

Noting also the provisions of the charter of the Economic Cooperation Organization recommending expansion of relations with international organizations;

Reaffirming their wish to work closer together for the economic stability, development and progress of member countries of both organizations.

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1.     General provisions**

ECO and UNECE will compliment their efforts in order to attain their respective objectives in the areas of their competence.

ECO and UNECE Secretariats will coordinate these efforts for cooperation between the two organizations which may seek additional budgetary resources.

**Article 2.     Areas of cooperation**

The cooperation may extend to the following areas and activities of mutual interest:

a) Transport

ECO and UNECE will exchange information on identification of effective international transport infrastructure networks in the ECO member states and work on modalities which will facilitate and enhance such a cooperation.

b) Trade, industry and entrepreneurship

ECO and UNECE will also promote the strengthening of economic ties between the countries of the ECO region, through harmonizing rules and regulations in trade. UNECE Secretariat will share with the ECO Secretariat its expertise on trade facilitation, trade model building for national economies, and development of small and medium enterprises in the countries of the ECO region.

c) Sustainable Energy Development

In case it is so decided by the governing bodies of both organizations, experts from ECO and UNECE may jointly work in order to promote energy efficiency measures in the region, to reduce energy intensity of their national economies, increase effectiveness and quality and the development of new kinds of energy resources.

Experts from ECO and UNECE may also cooperate on the issues of data collection, creation of data base, analysis and assessment on the world energy market and on the issues of energy pricing, the technologies of gas and oil storage and security of energy transportation and on regulations and norms for deregulation of energy markets.

d) Protection of environment

In order to protect the environment, ECO and UNECE will seek ways of enhancing financial and technical assistance to the ECO countries in order to further cooperation in the field of environment.

e) Economic analysis and statistics

Exchange of economic data and statistics, publications, and relevant consultations between experts on these issues may be carried out on mutually acceptable basis. Both organizations may invite experts to participate in seminars, conferences and symposia on these topics organized by ECO and UNECE.

The Secretariats of ECO and UNECE may cooperate in collecting, analyzing and disseminating statistical information on economic data and social development of member countries.

In order to improve the quality and comparability of data produced by ECO member countries, ECO and UNECE will seek ways of enhancing the financial and technical assistance to the ECO countries for implementing the projects to be designed according to the ECO priority subjects.

**Article 3. Modes of cooperation**

a) Consultations and cooperation on substantive issue:

ECO and UNECE may hold periodic consultations on the issues of cooperation between the two organizations, which may include joint ECO-UNECE projects on matters of mutual interest, subject to appropriate organizational and financial arrangements.

b) Exchange of information and documentation:

ECO and UNECE shall exchange information on their activities.

c) Participation in meetings:

The ECO Secretariat will be regularly informed of the meetings of the UNECE with a view to avail participation as an observer.

In the spirit of reciprocity, the UNECE Secretariat will be invited to attend to the relevant meetings of ECO, in accordance with the established rules and procedures of the latter.

**Article 4. Concluding provisions**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement between its parties and on the basis of the respective procedures of ECO and UNECE.

No provision of this MOU shall be deemed to waive the privileges and immunities of the United Nations or of the Economic Cooperation Organization, nor infringe upon the respective mandates of ECO and UNECE in accordance with their relevant rules and procedures.

The MOU shall come into force upon its signing by the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Secretary General of ECO.

**For the Secretariat of the United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe**

**For the Secretariat of the Economic  
Cooperation Organization**

Executive Secretary  
of the  
UN Economic Commission for Europe

Secretary General  
of the  
Economic Cooperation Organization

Brigita Schmögnerová

Ambassador Seyed Mojtaba Arastou

**Date:** 24 June 2003

**Place:** Geneva, Switzerland

