



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Statement by Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi,
ECO Deputy Secretary General**

**ECO Workshop on
Production of Population Statistics and Information**

(Tehran, 6-7 November 2012)

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

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Production of Population Statistics and Information**
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The ECO Deputy Secretary General's Statement

Your Excellency

Mr. Parsaie

Deputy Head of National Organization for Civil Registration

The Islamic Republic of Iran,

Dr. Mehmet Hulki Uz,

Distinguished UNFPA Representative Iran Country Office

Distinguished Trainers of the Workshop,

Honourable delegates,

Dear Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

I warmly welcome all distinguished participants, guests and organizers of the ECO Workshop on Production of Population Statistics and Information.

On behalf of the ECO Secretariat, I would like to express, our appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and particularly the Iranian National Organization for Civil Registration, for making excellent arrangements for this event and warm hospitality extended to the participants.

I am also grateful to the Honourable Deputy Interior Minister and Head of National Organization for Civil Registration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Nazemi Ardakani, for his personal support and cooperation.

I thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative Iran Country Office for support and cooperation.

I also appreciate the presence and participation of distinguished delegates from Economic Cooperation Organization Member States in the ECO Workshop on Production of Population Statistics and Information.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an intergovernmental regional organization, established for the purpose of promoting multi dimensional regional cooperation with a view to creating conditions for sustainable socioeconomic growth and development in the Member States.

On 28 November 1992 the Organization expanded from a 3 to 10-Members' Organization. Therefore, the year 2012 is a very special year for ECO, during which, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of ECO expansion. At the time being, after 20 years of expansion, ECO gained a new dimension and new role with its ever strengthening regional cooperation and ever growing international stature.

The ECO countries are located in a region with an area more than 7.000.000 square km and with a population of around 450 000000 people.

People are the real wealth of our nations and indeed the basic purpose of development is the well being of people. In order to achieve this goal ECO is expanding cooperation in several fields like trade, energy, agriculture, transport, infrastructure construction, culture, education, health and human resources.

By holding the First Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers in October 2011 in Tehran, ECO initiated a new scope in the field of Human Resource Development Cooperation which is Civil Registration. The initiative would undoubtedly benefit individual Member States and the entire ECO region. Production of population statistics and information is among those fields which have been identified as the priority areas for cooperation by this Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Organizations of Civil Registration.

Population statistics is considered as one of the most important sciences with various applications in many areas of human activity. It provides a good basis for making right social and economic decisions in human being's favor.

The ECO Workshop on Production of Population Statistics and Information will provide excellent opportunity for raising awareness and strengthening technical capacities in the field of Civil Registration, sharing

knowledge and experiences, exchanging best practices on utilizing vital statistics at national level and for joint benefit.

I hope this Workshop would be a good platform for further enhancement of appropriate areas of cooperation within ECO region, inter alia for preparation and organization of the Second Meeting of ECO Heads of National Organizations/Centres for Civil Registration which is scheduled to be held in September 2013 in Turkey.

I am confident that the active participation in deliberations and valuable professional contributions of the delegates would enable the Workshop to accomplish its task successfully and achieve its objectives.

Once again I would like to thank the host authorities for arranging this important event and making excellent arrangements for the participants. I wish a complete successful work to all participants and organizers of the Workshop.

I thank you all.