



2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration

REPORT

17 October 2017
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

1. The 2nd Meeting of the Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration was held on 17 October 2017 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. The Meeting was attended by the delegations from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey (**host**) and Republic of Uzbekistan. ECO Secretariat delegation, headed by ECO Secretary General also participated in the Meeting. *The list of participants is attached as Annex-I.*

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

2. At the beginning of the Meeting a video was depicted containing the activities of the General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs of Turkey.

3. H.E. Mr. Sinan Guner, Director General of Population and Citizenship Affairs of the Republic of Turkey welcomed the participating delegations. He briefed the delegates about the history of registration in the Republic of Turkey since Ottoman era. He said that since January 2, 2017, safe identity cards has started to be delivering to Turkish citizens which cannot be copied at all. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-II.*

4. In his statement, H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca, ECO Secretary General expressed his profound gratitude to the people and the Government of Republic of Turkey particularly to H.E. Mr. Suleyman Soyly, the Honorable Minister of Interior, for providing warm hospitality and making the excellent arrangements for this important meeting in the beautiful and historical city of Istanbul. He presented an overview on ECO activities, including the recently adopted "ECO Vision 2025". ECO Secretary General referred to the 6 priorities of the Vision and underscored that success in implementation of the programmes and actions of the Vision necessitates a range of people-centred services. He defines civil registration as an area of cooperation which yields critical people-related services for human development dividend. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-III.*

5. H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ersoy, Deputy Minister of Interior of the Republic of Turkey made the inaugural statement. He welcomed the delegates in the

Meeting. Briefing the history of the ECO he said since its inception, the Republic of Turkey was contributing its best cooperation, exchange of experiences in the field of trade and economic cooperation and to the sustainability of the ECO activities. Giving the importance of the Civil Registration, the Republic of Turkey decided to host this meeting. He said that the ECO Member States have common culture and historical values having population of over 450 million to bring peace and fraternity in the region. He hoped that this meeting would come with tangible result-oriented recommendations for future cooperation in the area of civil registration. *Copy of his statement is attached as Annex-IV.*

6. At the end of the opening session, the participants took a Family photo.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman and adoption of Agenda

7. The host country presented a video regarding the history and culture of Republic of Turkey.

8. As per ECO rules of procedure, H.E. Mr. Sinan Guner, Director General of Population and Citizenship Affairs of the Republic of Turkey was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

9. The Meeting adopted its agenda that is attached *as Annex-V.*

Agenda Item No. 3

Report by the ECO Secretariat on the current Civil Registration Cooperation within the ECO Region including the Progress made on the decisions of the First Meeting of Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers of ECO Member States

10. Mr. Ugur Kilicarslan, Director of Human Resources and Sustainable Development of the ECO Secretariat (HRSD) briefed the Meeting in length about the decisions taken during the 1st Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers held in Tehran on 3-4 October 2011 and progress achieved so far. Copy of his statement is attached *as Annex-VI.*

Agenda Item No. 4

Country Reports/Presentations by heads of delegation

11. The Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States delivered their national statements and presentations, elaborating their national policies and programmes on registration, identity confirmations, access of the governmental and non-governmental centres to demographic databanks, production and publication of statistical data and usages, services to other countries, issuances and optimization of National Identification Numbers, issuance of Smart Cards, role of Personal Status Registration Departments in electronic government as well as prospects for enhanced regional and global cooperation in the field of Civil Registration and related areas. *Copies of their statements and presentations are attached as Annex-VII.*

Agenda Item No. 5

Exchange of experiences and sharing best practices on civil registration issues:

- (i) Civil Status Registration and best E-Government practices,
- (ii) Technological and educational cooperation among ECO Civil registration organizations,
- (iii) Sharing Best Practices and Experience in Geographic Information Systems;
- (iv) ID Card (Digital/Electronic Identification Card) Sharing Best Practices and Experience.
- (v) Business Continuity (Disaster Center), passport and driving licenses project, digital archive project)

12. Presentations on the above areas of cooperation were made by Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey. The delegates then shared their views on possible ways and means to establish regional platforms for cooperation in these areas.

13. Accordingly, the Meeting requested the Member States to cooperate in the following areas:

- Establishment of online demographic dashboard.

- The Member States may provide Civil Registration Data and progress report on the agreed activities to the ECO Secretariat for compilation and production of ECO Civil Registration data year book yearbook.
- The ECO Secretariat is requested to conduct a study using technical assistance of the relevant international organizations including UNFPA to assess the existing Civil Registration Systems of the Member States and exploring the ways and means for their further improvement. The result of the study may be discussed by the Experts of Member States for presentation in the 3rd meeting of the Heads of Civil Registration Organizations/Centers.
- The Member States proposed for preparation of the ECO statistical data sheet. The ECO Secretariat is requested to collect needed data regarding civil registration and share them among the Member States.
- Exchange of documented experiences in the field of issuance of Smart-Card considering the biometric parameters.
- Identification of vital documentation of the citizens of ECO Member States in multi-language registration without any extra verification based on data exchange among Member States.
- The meeting also proposed to the Member States to work closely on the issue of non-registered citizens and migrants to decrease the risk of fraud and other negative impacts of these non-registered individuals.
- The Member States should also cooperate on the issue of migrants regarding registration organizations.
- The delegations also proposed to compose a task group of high level Registration Experts to work on the above proposals regarding the multi-language registration, non-registered citizens as well as other issues.
- The 3rd meeting among other issues may also discuss the security of digital data for Civil Registration and recognition of digital signatures.

14. The Meeting requested the ECO Secretariat to develop a comprehensive project/programme for implementation of the above agreed actions. The Meeting further requested the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) to support the envisaged project/programme and the ECO Council of Permanent

Representatives (CPR) to allocate needed funding from its financial resources, including Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

Agenda item No.7

Any other business:

15. Under this agenda, no issue was discussed.

Agenda Item 8

Date and venue of the next Meeting

16. The Meeting requested the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the interested Member States to host the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration in 2018 and inform the Member States the exact date and venue of the Meeting accordingly.

Agenda Item 9

Adoption of the Report

17. The Report of the Meeting was unanimously adopted.

Agenda Item 10

Closing Remarks

18. The distinguished participants from the Member States profoundly thanked the Chairman of the Meeting for his excellent conduct of the Meeting in a smooth and professional manner. The delegations also expressed their heartiest gratitude to the Government of Republic of Turkey particularly the Directorate General of Population and Citizenship for generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this important meeting.

19. The Chairman and Member States also expressed their gratitude to the ECO Secretary General and the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the Meeting.
