

17 October 2017

Annex-IV

Esteemed Governor of Istanbul,

Distinguished Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Honorable Deputy Minister of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran and esteemed guests representing the Economic Cooperation Organization member states,

First of all I welcome and salute you all with my deepest respect.

Since the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Turkey has spent a great deal of effort to let the organization work to its fullest in every platform, to let it continue its work in a functional manner, to develop every kind of cooperation among the friendly and brotherly countries – especially regarding industrial, economic and commercial activities – and to ensure that the people of this geography can live in solidarity. In this sense, Turkey esteemed it a duty to provide the highest level of attendance to every meeting held so far. After a long time, we are happy to hold this meeting in the unique and beautiful city of İstanbul, a historical city that hosted many civilizations and holds many of our common values. On this opportunity, I would like to sincerely thank all the participators, especially the Secretary General, and all my colleagues who have contributed to this event.

Dear colleagues,

Despite the many historical, economic, and natural riches they possess and despite our sincere believe that they deserve much more happiness, peace, and tranquility, the people of this geography whom we share common historical and cultural values with and who are also part of this organization need to be more united, to be together and to be aware of their power so that the members of the ten countries of his organization can reach the place they deserve.

If the pure, innocent and well-intentioned people of this geography join hands, I believe that we can bring more peace, prosperity and amicability to many more people and not only to a population of 400-500 million. Our cooperation on civil registration systems is only one part of this. We have a massive experience dating back to the 1800's. Maybe you have different experiences. Even just sharing them can be a reason for taking important steps towards stronger development, security, and justice in our countries. However, we must never be satisfied with only this.

While growing side by side, there will be many areas we will share, develop and strengthen. Together, let us try to become more aware of our responsibilities and our brotherhood, and let us try to make our people walk more safely in the future, in accordance with our friendship and our alliance. I wish that this meeting will be successful and that the Economic Cooperation Organization will help us cooperate and unite in matters like this or similar to this and I hope that meetings like this will contribute to our union, togetherness and brotherhood. Once again, I am pleased to welcome you, our valued guests, who honored us and Istanbul with their participation.

Istanbul is a beautiful city. I am sure there are some of you that have already visited this place. Being here on this occasion, I hope you will be able to see what our civilization is capable of and how our shared values can be presented to all people on both sides of the Bosphorus. I also wish you will not leave without seeing some particular places. I salute you all with respect and love. Welcome.