



COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE ECO EVENTS
ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL FORUM DEPARTMENT
OF FPCCI & ECO CCI
ON 21ST & 22ND JANUARY, 2026

Prepared By
FPCCI International Forum Department

REPORT ON ECO-RELATED EVENTS HELD IN KARACHI **(21-22 JANUARY 2026)**

1. Introduction

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), in collaboration with regional and international partner institutions, successfully hosted a series of high-level economic and business engagements in Karachi from 21–22 January 2026. These events are brought together senior representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states, diplomats, regional institutions, and the private sector, reinforcing Pakistan’s leadership role in promoting regional economic integration.

The key engagements included:

1. Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo 21–22 January 2026 at PC Hotel, Karachi Jointly organized by FPCCI and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development (ICCD)
2. Dinner Reception Hosted by Mr. Khalid Tawab 21 January 2026 Karachi in honour of delegates from Islamic countries and ECO countries.
3. ECO CCI Executive Committee & General Assembly Meetings 22 January 2026 at Federation House, Karachi hosted by FPCCI

Together, these events provided a comprehensive platform for dialogue, networking, policy discussion, and private-sector engagement across the ECO and OIC regions.

2. Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo (21–22 January 2026)

2.1 Overview



The Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo was jointly organized by FPCCI and ICCD with the objective of promoting sustainable tourism as a driver of economic growth, employment generation, investment, and people-to-people connectivity among OIC and ECO member states. The STF @ Expo was inaugurated by Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, president FPCCI also delivered his speech on the occasion (Copy enclosed as Annex A-a).



The Forum was attended by:

- Foreign delegates from OIC and ECO countries
- Diplomats and representatives of embassies and consulates
- Senior business leaders and tourism stakeholders
- Representatives of public-sector organizations and private enterprises



2.2 Objectives of the Forum

The primary objectives of the Forum were to:

- Highlight tourism as an emerging and high-impact economic sector
- Promote sustainable and responsible tourism practices
- Encourage cross-border investment in tourism infrastructure
- Facilitate business-to-business interaction among regional stakeholders
- Strengthen cooperation among OIC and ECO countries in tourism development

2.3 Themes and Discussions



Discussions during the Forum focused on:

- Sustainable tourism models
- Religious, cultural and heritage tourism
- Eco-tourism and community-based tourism
- Investment opportunities in hospitality and allied sectors
- Skills development and capacity building in tourism services

2.4 Expo



The Expo was organized on the side line of tourers from where Pakistani Companies displayed their potential exhibition and capabilities which were highly appreciated by the visitors. The Expo was inaugurated by Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan.

The Expo component enabled participating companies and institutions to showcase their products, services, and tourism destinations, providing a valuable networking and business matchmaking opportunity.

2.5 Role of ICCD

FPCCI and ICCD's role were widely appreciated, particularly its contributions to:

- Promotion of tourism across OIC and ECO member states
- Support for halal tourism, SMEs, women entrepreneurs and exhibitions
- Exploring untapped economic potential within the Islamic world

The Forum further strengthened collaboration between FPCCI and ICCD, culminating in deeper engagement during subsequent ECO meetings.

3. Dinner Reception Hosted by Mr. Khalid Tawab (21 January 2026)

3.1 Overview

On the evening of 21 January 2026, Mr. Khalid Tawab, Former Senior Vice President FPCCI, Chairman Audit & Finance Committee FPCCI, Council General of Mozambique and Chairman Tawab Group, hosted a dinner reception at his residence in Karachi in honour of:

- H.E. Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General, ICCD (Chief Guest)
- Mr. Tariq Mustafa, Advisor to Governor of Sindh
- Delegates from Islamic countries
- ECO CCI representatives
- Diplomats, senior business leaders, and FPCCI leadership

3.2 Significance of the Dinner

The dinner provided an informal yet highly meaningful platform for interaction, fostering goodwill, strengthening relationships, and reinforcing Pakistan's hospitality and commitment to regional cooperation.

The presence of Mr. Tariq Mustafa, Advisor to Governor of Sindh underscored the provincial government's support for:

- Trade and investment
- Tourism development
- Business-friendly policies



3.3 Key Messages Delivered

During the dinner:

Appreciation was expressed for the Governor of Sindh's consistent support to the business community

ICCD's leadership and role in strengthening economic cooperation across OIC countries was acknowledged

FPCCI and ECO CCI leadership reaffirmed commitment to regional integration

The importance of private-sector-driven collaboration was emphasized

The dinner also marked a symbolic moment of unity between ECO and OIC economic platforms, ahead of the formal ECO CCI meetings the following day.

The President of FPCCI announced nomination of Mr. Khalid Tawab as a representative of FPCCI for the Vice Presidentship of ICCD which was highly appreciated by the members.

Welcome Address of Mr. Khalid Tawab and Speech of Mr. Atif Ikram, President of FPCCI & ECO-CCI enclosed (as Annex B-b)

Mr. S. M. Tanvir, Leader of Business Community and Patron in Chief United Business Group (UBG) also address the gathering.

The Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General of ICCD addressed submitted to further intensify the interaction among OIC.





4. ECO CCI Executive Committee & General Assembly Meetings (22 January 2026)

4.1 Overview

The ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO CCI) Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings were held on 22 January 2026 at Federation House, Karachi, hosted by FPCCI.

The meetings were attended by:

- Representatives of National Chambers of ECO member countries
- Secretary General, ICCD
- Diplomats of ECO states
- Representatives of ECO Secretariat and allied institutions
- ECO Trade and Development Bank
- OIC Arbitration Center
- ECO Science Foundation
- Officials from Pakistan Railways, SBP, NLC and other organizations

The meetings were presided over by Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and ECO CCI.

4.2 Opening Proceedings

The meeting commenced with:

- The National Anthem of Pakistan, with all participants standing in respect
- Recitation of the Holy Quran



Brig Iftikhar Opel, SI (M), Retd, Secretary General FPCCI and ECO CCI, delivered the opening remarks, welcoming all delegates and outlining the objectives of the meetings. ***(Address of copy enclosed as Annexure 'A')***



4.3 Key Addresses

- Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI & ECO CCI emphasized the need to intensify economic cooperation and strengthen ECO CCI as the private-sector engine of regional integration. ***(Address of copy enclosed as Annexure 'B')***



- Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President FPCCI highlighted opportunities in trade facilitation, industry, SMEs, transportation, tourism, and women entrepreneurship. ***(Copy of Address enclosed as Annexure 'C')***



4.4 Institutional Presentations

Presentations were delivered by:

- Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General ICCD **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 'D-a')**



- Ms. Amina Batool, Director - ECO Secretariat, Tehran, Iran **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 'D')**
- Mr. Nadeem Shahzad, ECO Trade & Development Bank – financing regional trade and Investment **(Presentation enclosed as Annexure 'E')**
- Dr. Umar A. Oseni, Secretary General OIC Arbitration Centre – dispute resolution and investor confidence **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 'F')**
- Mr. Hakan - Ulken, Board Member ToBB **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 'G')**
- Prof. Syed Komail Tayebi, President - ECO Science Foundation – research, innovation, and technology cooperation **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 'H')**
- Mr. Farrukh Hussain, NLC **(Presentation enclosed as Annexure 'I')**

These presentations were described by participants as highly informative and valuable.

4.5 Signing of MoU

A major milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ECO CCI and ICCD, aimed at:

- Enhancing institutional cooperation
- Joint initiatives in trade, investment, SMEs, women entrepreneurship, and tourism **(Copy of MoU enclosed as Annexure 'J')**





Crests were exchanged with ICCD leadership, diplomats, and National Chamber representatives.

4.6 Second Session & Deliberations

The second session focused on thematic areas:

- Trade facilitation by Mr. Abdul Mohamin Khan, Vice President – FPCCI (*Copy enclosed as Annexure 'K'*)
- Industry, investment & SMEs by Mr. Tariq Mehmood Jadoon, Vice President – FPCCI (*Copy enclosed as Annexure 'L'*)
- Transportation & logistics by Mr. Umer Rehan (*Copy enclosed as Annexure 'M'*)
- Tourism by Mr. Karim Aziz Malik (*Copy enclosed as Annexure 'N'*)
- Women entrepreneurship by Mrs. Naheed Masud (*Copy enclosed as Annexure 'O'*)

4.7 Key Decisions

The meetings concluded with consensus on:

- Holding annual ECO exhibitions (Copy enclosed as Annexure 'P')
- Proposal to initiate an ECO Train (Copy enclosed as Annexure 'Q')
- Visa facilitation measures for businesspersons (Copy enclosed as Annexure 'R')
- Creation of an ECO CCI website (Copy enclosed as Annexure 'S')
- Regular virtual meetings and at least two physical meetings annually
- Submission of decisions to ECO Secretariat for implementation

5. Overall Impact and Outcomes

The series of events:

- Strengthened Pakistan's leadership role within ECO and OIC frameworks
- Enhanced private-sector dialogue and institutional cooperation
- Advanced concrete proposals for trade, transport, tourism, SMEs and women

Entrepreneurship

- Deepened engagement between FPCCI, ECO CCI, ICCD and regional stakeholders



6. Conclusion

The successful organization of the Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo, Dinner Reception, and ECO CCI Executive Committee & General Assembly Meetings demonstrated FPCCI's capacity to convene high-level regional engagements and translate dialogue into actionable outcomes.

These events reaffirmed the collective commitment of ECO and OIC member countries toward regional economic integration, sustainable growth, and private-sector-led development, with Pakistan playing a central and constructive role.

Note:

1. ***All Annexure are available on our website i.e. www.fpcci.org.pk***
2. ***The minutes of the ECO CCI Meeting and Messages of President of Pakistan and Commerce Minister for both the events also available on FPCCI website***

Draft speech of President FPCCI on inauguration session of Sustainable Development Forum and Expo (21-22 January 2026)

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- Honourable Minister
- Distinguished guests
- Excellencies,
- Representatives of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development,
- Esteemed Delegates from OIC Member States,
- Business Leaders,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very warm welcome to Karachi.

It is both a privilege and a pleasure for me to welcome you Mr ——— Federal Minister——— to the Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo 2026, jointly organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development (ICCD) under the kind patronage of Government of Pakistan and has supported by OIC Secretariat, Jeddah, different affiliated institutes of OIC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, SIFC, Pakistan Tourism Development Board, Board of Investment and other organizations. Your presence, particularly of our distinguished guests from OIC member countries, greatly enhances the importance of this forum and reflects our shared commitment to building stronger economic and cultural bridges through tourism. Sustainable Tourism Forum is an annual event that will provide opportunities to expand intra-OIC trade, investment, the employment opportunities and also improve national income and image of Pakistan as a tourist destination to promote the immense potential of Pakistan's tourism industry.

Tourism today is not merely a leisure activity; it is a strategic economic sector, a powerful engine of employment, investment, cultural exchange and sustainable development. Across the world, tourism contributes significantly to GDP, generates millions of jobs, stimulates SMEs, empowers women and youth, and promotes regional integration. For the Islamic world, with its extraordinary cultural heritage, natural beauty and historical civilization, tourism represents one of the most promising sectors for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Globally, Tourism industry contributes 10 percent in Global GDP; accounted 330 million jobs and 28.3% of global services exports. Tourism offers opportunities for creating employment, nurturing rural development, and diversifying the economy. Since the 1970s, tourism has been used as a tool for community development with emphasis on economic development and lessening poverty; as a result, many developing countries have promoted and supported tourism projects in their national development plans. Turkiye, Egypt, China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, European countries etc. are now top international tourism receipt countries.

Pakistan, I am pleased to say, is fully aligned with this global vision. In recent years, Pakistan has made all-out efforts to project itself as a premier tourism destination. From the snow-capped peaks of the north to the ancient civilizations of Mohenjo-Daro and Taxila, from the spiritual heritage of Sufi shrines to our pristine coastline, Pakistan offers unmatched diversity. The

government and private sector are working hand in hand to improve infrastructure, ease travel facilitation, encourage foreign investment, promote eco-tourism, heritage tourism and medical tourism, and ensure that tourism development remains environmentally responsible and socially inclusive.

Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world, which bless with diverse tourism attractions, four weathers, high mountains, deserts, vast delta plains and sea. For the promotion of tourism, the Government of Pakistan has announced visa facility for Citizens of 192 countries are eligible for the online system, with 120 countries eligible for Visa Prior to Arrival (VPA) for business, tourist, and Sikh pilgrimage purposes. The visa policy enables the citizens of others countries to get visas at the airport without having to apply at the Pakistani embassies in their respective countries. Moreover, our government is very much keen for the promotion of religious tourism and started development of infrastructure for religious tourism. By developing tourism, other businesses such as hotels, restaurants, transport, handicrafts, shopping, local recreational spots and local entrepreneurs will be simultaneously risen and it create thousands of new jobs for unskilled and skilled workforce and Pakistan can offer investment opportunities in these businesses.

The theme of this forum — Sustainable Tourism — is particularly relevant. Sustainability ensures that tourism benefits today's generation while preserving our environment, culture and resources for tomorrow. Through this forum and expo, we aim to promote responsible investment, encourage cross-border partnerships, develop skills and innovation, and leverage technology —

including digital platforms and artificial intelligence — to transform tourism across OIC countries.

The Expo component of this event provides a valuable platform for countries and enterprises to showcase their tourism potential, cultural heritage, services, traditional and non-traditional products, and investment opportunities. I am confident that the interactions over the next two days will open new avenues of cooperation, joint ventures and long-term partnerships.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development for its continued collaboration and to all participating countries, institutions and sponsors for their support. Together, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected and more prosperous tourism economy across the Islamic world.

Let us use this forum to exchange ideas, share experiences, build trust and transform vision into action.

I wish the forum and expo every success and I hope your stay in Karachi is both productive and memorable.

Thank you.

Pakistan Zindabad.

Draft Opening Remarks

By Brig Iftikhar Opel, SI (M), Retd Secretary General, FPCCI & ECO CCI

- Mr. Haroon Akhter, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan
- Representatives of the Member National Chambers of ECO Countries,
- Excellencies, Ambassadors and Consul Generals of ECO States,
- Deputy Secretary General and Directors, ECO Secretariat,
- Representatives of ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO CCI),
- Representative of ECO Trade and Development Bank,
- Members of National Committees of ECO CCI (Pakistan Chapter),
- Conveners of Specialized Committees of ECO CCI (Pakistan Chapter),
- Representatives of SBP, TDAP, BOI, Pakistan Railways and NLC,
- Distinguished Excellencies,
- Esteemed Members of the Business Community,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry, it is my great honour and privilege to warmly welcome our Chief Guest today Mr. Haroon Akhter, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I also welcome the guest at the ECO CCI Executive Committee Meeting here in Karachi — a city that stands as one of Pakistan's foremost economic and commercial hub.

We are deeply grateful for your presence and participation, and we particularly thank our distinguished delegates from the ECO member countries. Your participation today reflects your commitment in strengthening the economic foundations of the ECO region and intensifying cooperation within nations.

The ECO region is endowed with abundant natural and human resources, offers immense economic opportunities that must be effectively explored and productively harnessed for the collective prosperity of our peoples.

Yet, despite this extraordinary potential, the mutual trade remains far below its true capacity. The responsibility before us is therefore clear to convert geographic proximity into economic integration, and to transform political intent into tangible commercial outcomes. This is where ECO CCI plays its most critical and yet vital role.

Effort be made in continuously strengthened the role of ECO-CCI to enable it to function as the primary private-sector driver of regional integration, particularly in its efforts to:

- Connect enterprises across borders,
- Facilitate practical business partnerships,
- Strengthen SME participation,
- Promote investment flows,
- Support women entrepreneurs,
- Improve trade facilitation and logistics, and
- Expand tourism and service-sector cooperation.

Today's Executive Committee Meeting is therefore not a routine gathering — it is a working platform where policy meets practice, and where decisions taken must translate into measurable economic progress.

The agenda before us addresses the most pressing drivers of regional growth:

- Trade facilitation — removing procedural and structural barriers,
- Investment cooperation — mobilizing regional capital into productive sectors,
- Transportation and connectivity — strengthening corridors and logistics networks,
- SME development — integrating smaller enterprises into regional value chains,
- Women entrepreneurship — unlocking the region's most underutilized economic asset.
- Tourism and services — expanding people-to-people and commercial linkages.

The recommendations and decisions emerging from today's deliberations will be formally sent to the ECO Secretariat for follow-up and implementation, ensuring that our collective work leads to stronger institutional and economic outcomes.

I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the ECO CCI team, whose dedication and tireless efforts have made today's meeting possible.

We are equally thankful to the ECO Secretariat, the ECO Trade and Development Bank, and the Governments of member states for their continued support to ECO CCI and the private sector's expanding role in regional development.

Distinguished delegates, the future of ECO will be built not only in government chambers but in factories, ports, markets, transport corridors, SMEs, tourism enterprises, and boardrooms across our region.

The ECO CCI and Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Development will be entering into an agreement and we expect that agreement to carry out joint activities.

Let today's meeting strengthen our shared commitment to transform the ECO region into a zone of shared prosperity, deep integration, and sustainable growth.

I once again welcome you all to Karachi and wish you highly productive deliberations.

Thank you.

Speech of Mr. Khalid Tawab

Distinguished Guests,

Honourable Chief Guest,
Mr. Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor of Sindh,

Honourable Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi,
Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development
(ICCD),

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh,
President FPCCI, President ECO CCI & Vice President CACCI,

Mr. S. M. Tanveer,
Renowned Leader of the Business Community and Patron-in-Chief, UBG,

Esteemed Delegates from Islamic Countries and the ECO Region,
Excellencies, Diplomats,
Senior Government Officials,

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President FPCCI,
Vice Presidents of FPCCI,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very warm welcome to you all.

It is a great honour and personal pleasure for me to host this dinner in your honour here in Karachi, Pakistan's economic and commercial heart. This evening brings together distinguished leaders, policymakers and business representatives from the Islamic world and the ECO region,

reflecting our shared commitment to cooperation, partnership and regional prosperity.

We are deeply privileged by the presence of our Honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor of Sindh. His dynamic leadership, strong engagement with the business community, and unwavering support for economic development have greatly strengthened Sindh's standing as a center of trade, investment and entrepreneurship. His presence this evening is a source of great encouragement for both local and international business communities, and we are sincerely grateful to him for gracing this occasion.

I would also like to pay special tribute to H.E. Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General of ICCD, whose visionary leadership has significantly advanced private-sector cooperation across the Islamic world. Under his stewardship, ICCD has emerged as a powerful platform for fostering sustainable development, investment collaboration and business connectivity among OIC member states. We greatly value his continued support and engagement with Pakistan and the ECO region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to place on record our deep appreciation for Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and ECO CCI, whose leadership has been instrumental in revitalizing ECO CCI and elevating its role as the principal private-sector voice of the ECO region. His tireless efforts in bringing together national chambers, strengthening regional dialogue, and hosting the ECO CCI Executive Committee Meeting in Karachi demonstrate Pakistan's strong commitment to regional economic integration.

We also warmly welcome and appreciate the presence of Mr. S. M. Tanveer, a respected and visionary leader of the business community,

whose contributions to industry and trade continue to inspire entrepreneurs across Pakistan.

This gathering gains further significance with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICCD and ECO CCI, a landmark step that formalizes cooperation between two vital regional institutions. This MoU will pave the way for joint initiatives in trade facilitation, investment promotion, SME development, women entrepreneurship and tourism—translating shared aspirations into concrete outcomes.

Your presence in Pakistan, coinciding with the Sustainable Tourism Forum & Expo and the ECO CCI Executive Committee Meeting, reflects the strong spirit of partnership and mutual trust among ECO and OIC member countries. It underscores our collective belief that regional prosperity can only be achieved through collaboration, connectivity and private-sector leadership.

Karachi is proud to host you. We sincerely hope that your stay is productive, comfortable and memorable, and that this evening strengthens bonds of friendship and cooperation among our nations.

Before concluding, I extend my heartfelt thanks to FPCCI, ECO CCI and ICCD, as well as all organizers and partners, for their outstanding efforts in making these important events a success.

Once again, Honourable Governor, distinguished guests and dear friends, welcome to Karachi. May this evening inspire stronger partnerships, enduring friendships and a shared journey toward sustainable prosperity.

Thank you, and please enjoy the evening

**Speech by President FPCCI in Executive Committee and General Assembly
Meeting of ECO-CCI on 22nd January 2026 in Karachi Pakistan**

- Honourable Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
- Excellencies, Members and representatives of the ECO Countries
- Excellencies, Member Diplomatic Corps,
- Presidents and Members of National Chambers,
- Distinguished Representatives of trade bodies of ECO Member Countries,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you to the First Session of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We are deeply grateful to the Honourable Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan for graciously agreeing to join us today, which reflects Pakistan's strong commitment to regional economic cooperation under the ECO framework.

The ECO region represents a market of over 500 million people, vast natural resources, and a strategic geographic position linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and China. Yet, despite these advantages, intra-ECO trade remains well below its potential. This session, therefore, focuses on practical initiatives that can immediately facilitate trade and strengthen business-to-business linkages.

Free Trade and Preferential Trade Arrangements

The business community firmly believes that trade liberalization is the foundation of regional integration. The ECO Trade Agreement provides a basis for moving

towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA); however, its implementation has been slow.

As an interim and pragmatic step, we propose:

1- Strengthening and expanding Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) among ECO member states

2- Gradual reduction of tariffs on selected priority products

3- Expansion of product coverage and simplification of rules of origin

4- These measures will build confidence, stimulate trade flows, and eventually pave the way for a comprehensive ECO Free Trade Area.

Business Facilitation:

White Card and Visa Sticker Initiatives

Ease of mobility for businesspersons is critical for trade expansion. ECO CCI strongly supports the introduction of:

1- ECO White Card for transport operators and drivers to facilitate seamless cross-border movement

2- ECO Visa Sticker Scheme for business leaders, members of ECO CCI, and national chambers

Until these initiatives are fully implemented, we respectfully recommend that ECO member states consider visa-on-arrival or fast-track visa facilities on line for ECO businesspersons. Reducing visa hurdles will significantly enhance interaction, trust, and commercial cooperation.

Discounted Air Travel within the ECO Region

Air connectivity remains a major constraint for intra-regional trade. ECO CCI proposes:

1- Negotiating discounted air fares with national carrier of ECO countries for traveling with ECO Region.

2-Introducing special corporate or ECO business travel packages

3- Improving direct flight connectivity among ECO capitals and commercial hubs for both passengers and cargo movement.

4- Affordable and efficient air travel will directly support trade missions, exhibitions, and investment promotion activities.

Proposals to Enhance Intra-ECO Trade

To substantially increase intra-regional trade, ECO CCI proposes the following:

1- Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures

2- Digitalization of trade documentation and border processes

3- Greater use of transit regimes such as TIR Convention

4- Regular ECO trade fairs, B2B meetings, and sector-specific expos

5- Enhanced role of ECO Trade and Development Bank in supporting cross-border trade and investment

These steps would not only reduce the cost of doing business and will address in improving competitiveness across the region.

Excellencies and Distinguished Participants,

The private sector stands ready to play its role. What we need is policy alignment, facilitation, and political support. With strong leadership and collective resolve, the ECO region can emerge as a vibrant, integrated, and competitive economic bloc.

I once again thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and all distinguished guests for their presence and support.

Thank you.

**Speech by Saquib Fayyaz Magoon SVP FPCCI
On ECO Region & the Strategic Role of ECO CCI in Economic
Advancement**

- Distinguished Delegates,
- Excellencies,
- Honourable Representatives of Member States,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this esteemed forum at a time when the ECO region is redefining its economic future. The role of the private sector - represented through ECO CCI - is becoming increasingly decisive in shaping this transformation.

My remarks will focus on where the ECO region stands today, how ECO CCI is positioning the business community, and where the next phase of growth must come from.

The Economic Weight of the ECO Region

Before we discuss future strategy, it is important to recognize the economic strength that already exists within the ECO framework.

Today, the ECO region represents a combined economy of nearly USD 2.7 trillion. This places ECO among the most strategically important regional blocs connecting Asia and the Middle East.

At the core of this economic power stand Türkiye, Iran, Pakistan and Kazakhstan, which together contribute more than 88% of total ECO GDP, with Türkiye alone exceeding USD 1.3 trillion, followed by Iran, Pakistan and Kazakhstan. At the same time, Afghanistan and the Central Asian States represent frontier markets with exceptional growth potential and strategic connectivity.

This scale gives ECO the capacity to emerge as a powerful integrated market — provided we connect these economies through trade facilitation, investment, transport, SME development, women entrepreneurship and tourism.

ECO's Economic Landscape: Untapped Strategic Power

The ECO region connects three major economic zones: South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

Few regions possess such a powerful combination of:

- Natural resources
- Manufacturing capacity
- Agricultural depth
- Human capital
- Geo-strategic connectivity

Yet this potential remains only partially realized. The central task before us is not the creation of opportunity — it is the mobilization of existing opportunity into bankable, investable and tradable outcomes.

ECO CCI as the Private-Sector Architect

ECO CCI's mission is evolving from representation to economic architecture:

- Identifying commercial corridors
- Converting policy into transactions
- Aligning investors with opportunities
- Integrating SMEs into regional supply chains
- Empowering women entrepreneurs as growth multipliers

This shift transforms ECO CCI into the region's most important private-sector integrator.

Trade Facilitation: Moving from Intent to Execution

While governments negotiate frameworks, ECO CCI must drive execution:

- Standardized documentation

- Predictable border procedures
- Digital trade platforms
- Reliable settlement mechanisms

Here, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey carry special responsibility as lead economies to establish working models that can be replicated across Afghanistan and the CIS states.

Investment & Industrial Partnerships

The next growth cycle of ECO must be industrial.

ECO CCI is advancing:

- Joint industrial ventures
- Sector-specific investment corridors
- Technology partnerships
- Cross-border manufacturing clusters

Turkey's advanced manufacturing, Iran's industrial depth and Pakistan's expanding production base form a powerful trilateral engine that can integrate Afghanistan and Central Asia into regional value chains.

SMEs & Women Entrepreneurs: Expanding the Economic Base

Large enterprises alone cannot drive inclusive growth.

ECO CCI's strategy places SMEs and women entrepreneurs at the center of regional expansion:

- Regional SME networks
- Cross-border business matchmaking
- Access to finance and digital markets
- Leadership platforms for women-owned enterprises

This approach multiplies participation and stabilizes long-term growth.

Transportation & Logistics: The Economic Nervous System

Without logistics, there is no integration.

ECO CCI is actively advocating:

- Corridor-based development
- Multimodal connectivity
- Trade-supporting infrastructure
- Private investment in logistics

Pakistan, Iran and Turkey serve as natural gateways linking Central Asia and Afghanistan to global trade routes.

Tourism: The Soft Power of Growth

Tourism is becoming one of the fastest paths to employment and revenue across ECO.

Joint branding, visa facilitation, investment in hospitality, and skills development will allow the ECO region to transform its cultural and natural assets into sustainable economic returns.

Conclusion: A New Phase of ECO Growth

The future of ECO will be built by entrepreneurs, investors, SMEs, women leaders, and logistics networks — coordinated by ECO CCI and supported by governments.

If we succeed, ECO will not only integrate economies — it will integrate prosperity.

Thank you.

Statement by
Mr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organization
for the 20th General Assembly and 30th Executive Committee Meeting
of ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Karachi - 22nd January 2026

Honourable Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants & Delegates

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President ECO-CCI, & the President, FPCCI, for organising this important meeting, for the excellent arrangements made and for their generous hospitality. This effort is particularly commendable as we are meeting after a gap of four years under Pakistan's Chairmanship at a time when Pakistan has also assumed the stewardship of the Economic Cooperation Organization under the new arrangements for two years.

I also express my special thanks to respected representatives of national chambers of all the Member States, who are present here, for their earnest efforts and continued commitment to the vision of integration of the ECO region. I believe that such events of ECO-CCI would bring positive impact on enhancement of regional trade and investment, ensuring the active collaboration of the private sector and business community in the region.

Excellencies,

As you are aware, the Economic Cooperation Organization is a regional inter-governmental entity covering a territory of more than 8 million square kilometres and 500 million inhabitants. One of the core objectives of ECO is promotion of trade and investment among its Member States. In pursuance to this objective, the Organization has laid down necessary regulatory frameworks for investment opportunities and initiated measures towards progressive removal of trade barriers within the region and for expansion of intra and inter-regional trade and investment.

Distinguished Delegates

At this point, I would like to inform you that the **5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade** was successfully held in Istanbul. The meeting held after the gap of 14 years under the chairmanship of the Republic of Türkiye. And we appreciate that Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted to host the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in year 2026. We are moving from commitment to implementation and from aspirations to action. The ECO Ministers of Trade reached consensus on several landmark outcomes that together form a new

roadmap for ECO's trade and economic landscape.

The Istanbul Meeting has achieved tangible progress in strengthening institutional cooperation across the trade and customs domains. ECO Member States signed two important legal instruments in this ministerial meeting. These legal instruments are:

Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation on Joint Trade Promotion Activities among ECO Member States, and

ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters

With these agreements and undertakings ECO has now entered a new phase of maturity where the technical groundwork is sufficiently advanced to support higher level political decisions. Consensus of Member States on these two legal instruments reflects the growing demand of coordinated export promotion activities, business matchmaking and sectoral outreach across the ECO region.

In this Ministerial Meeting **ECO Trade Agreement Negotiation Strategy and Roadmap** was also adopted and approved. The Ministers formally endorsed the ECOTA Negotiation Strategy and Roadmap, which lays out a structured and time-bound process for transforming the 2003 ECO Trade Agreement into a modern, inclusive, and operational preferential trade framework.

Another achievement of Ministerial Meeting is **establishment of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC)** for re-negotiation of ECOTA. TNC will serve as the primary technical body responsible for revising the Agreement's provisions, including tariff reduction modalities, rules of origin, and the potential inclusion of new chapters on trade facilitation, services, investment, and digital trade.

Amongst others, another outcome of Istanbul Meeting was **adoption of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy**. This long-awaited framework was officially approved by the Ministers, marking a major step toward simplifying customs procedures, enhancing border management, and promoting paperless and digital trade. The Strategy provides a clear blueprint for harmonizing processes across Member States and is expected to reduce trade costs, improve efficiency, and foster predictable regional value chains.

Here, at this point, I am also pleased to inform you that the "**Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)**" has been ratified by four ECO Member States and it has been operationalized in 2022 to bolster the confidence of the investors in the ECO region. Under trade facilitation agenda, we are also pursuing operationalization of **ECO Reinsurance Company** to ensure secure trade in the region.

Distinguished participants,

The **6th ECO Business Forum** *“Investment and Trade Promotion as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region”* was successfully organised by Republic of Azerbaijan in July 2025. In total, 94 companies and 200 business representatives participated in the event, from across the ECO region. This active involvement of private sector is now shaping the regional strategies and is strengthening the institutional frameworks.

The private sector acts as an engine of growth in any economy and the ECO Secretariat has always attached immense value to participation and contribution of private sector in all the initiatives for the economic integration and sustainable development of the region.

One of the major demands of the business community in the ECO region has been facilitation in issuance of business visas. To facilitate issuance of visas for business community, the **‘Agreement on Visa Facilitation for the Businessmen in the ECO’**, has been signed by 7 ECO Member States and is ratified by 5 parties. ECO secretariat is working to device an agreed mechanism for issuance of business visa to businessmen in 72 hours of the application.

I am also pleased to inform you that the **ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)** is working on ways to reduce technical barriers to trade and on regional harmonization of standards to support trade. It will also bolster scientific and technological cooperation among Member States.

Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates

We look forward to a more proactive role of the private sectors through national chambers with a closer liaison with their governments.

In conclusion, ECO-CCI meetings and interaction of the business community is a clear manifestation of the desire and commitment for improving inter-regional trade. We hope that this meeting would be a productive and result-oriented and would benefit the member states in improving the capacities of the institutions and professional and would certainly pave the way for bright future.

Excellencies,

While concluding, I want to assure that the ECO would provide every possible support in attaining the goals of this organization. I thank you for your attention.

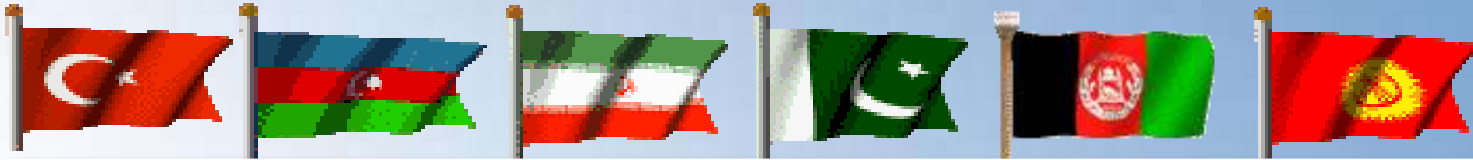
REMARKS BY MR. YOUSEF KHALAWI, SECRETARY GENERAL, ICCD

Mr. Yousef Khalawi appreciated the leadership of ECO CCI and welcomed the strengthening of institutional cooperation between ICCD and ECO CCI. He emphasized that enhanced collaboration among regional chambers was essential for promoting intra-regional trade, investment, and private-sector connectivity among member countries.

He highlighted ICCD's ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting SMEs, promoting halal economy development, digital transformation, and sustainable economic growth across member states. He particularly underlined the importance of joint programmes, business forums, and capacity-building activities to create tangible economic opportunities for the business community.

Mr. Khalawi expressed ICCD's readiness to work closely with ECO CCI and its National Chambers through structured engagements, joint events, and implementation of agreed cooperation frameworks. He also appreciated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, describing it as a significant step toward institutionalizing long-term cooperation.

He concluded by reaffirming ICCD's commitment to deepening partnerships with ECO CCI to facilitate greater business interaction and economic integration among member countries.

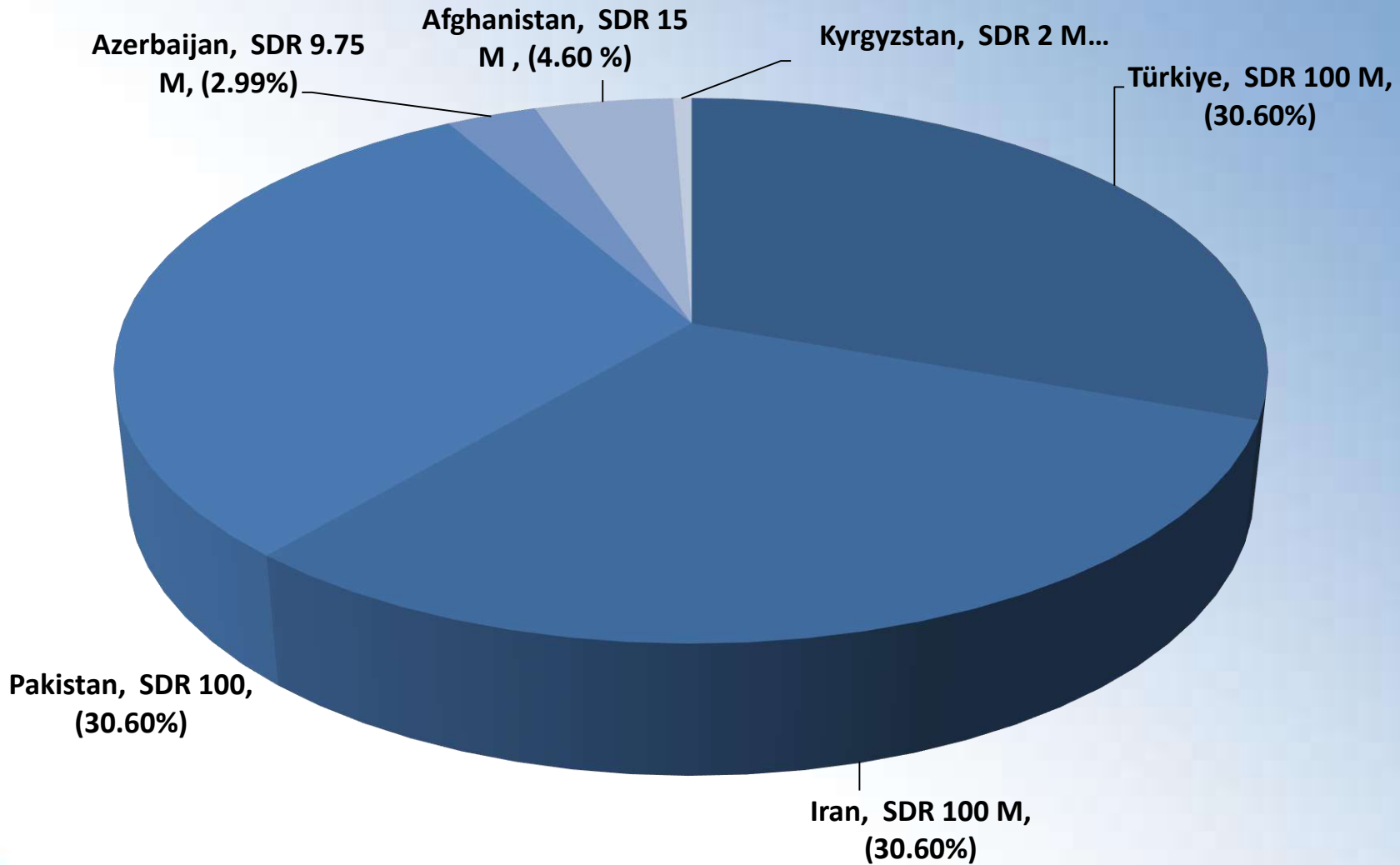


ECO Trade & Development Bank
Promoting Sustainable Development and Integration

ETDB at a Glance

- The Establishment Agreement signed by Iran, Pakistan & Turkey in 1995 > It became effective in 2005 after parliamentary approvals > United Nations registration and Operations begin in 2008.
- Headquarter in Istanbul and 2 Representative Offices in Tehran & Karachi
- Azerbaijan, Afghanistan & Kyrgyzstan became members during 2013-15
- Paid-in Capital SDR 327 million [Authorized Capital SDR 1,089 mn]
- Main focus of operations; Development Impact & Regional Integration & Inclusivity
- Adhering to prudent banking practices through well-defined policies, procedures, rules & guidelines for operating structure & processes.
- Business Plan (4 year) outline strategic objectives & operational framework of bank > Work Program (yearly) by each department
- Country Partnership Strategies (CPS) reflect priorities and specific needs of the member countries in the operations of the Bank

Shareholding



Areas of Activity – Product Line

❑ Corporate Finance

- Investment Financing
- Construction Financing
- Mezzanine Financing
- Acquisition Financing
- Working Capital Financing

❑ Trade / SME's / Micro Finance Through Intermediaries

❑ Soft Loan Financing

❑ Project Finance Loans

❑ Co-financing/Syndications

❑ Equity Investment

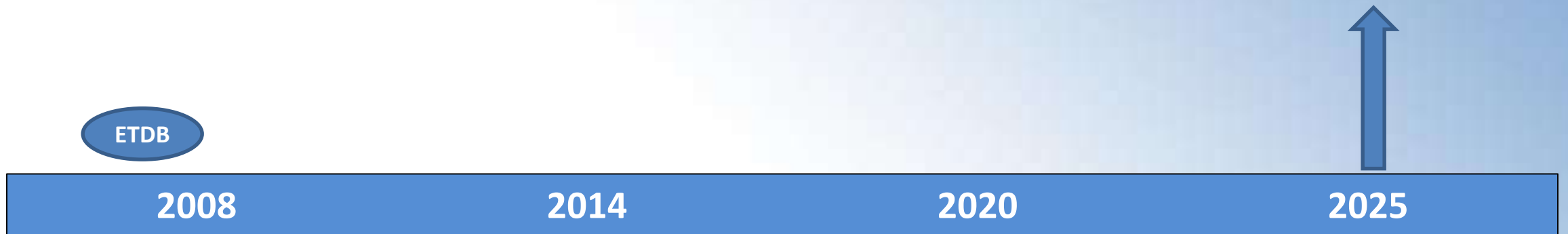
❑ Guarantees

❑ Islamic Finance

❑ Tech. Asst. and Advisory Services

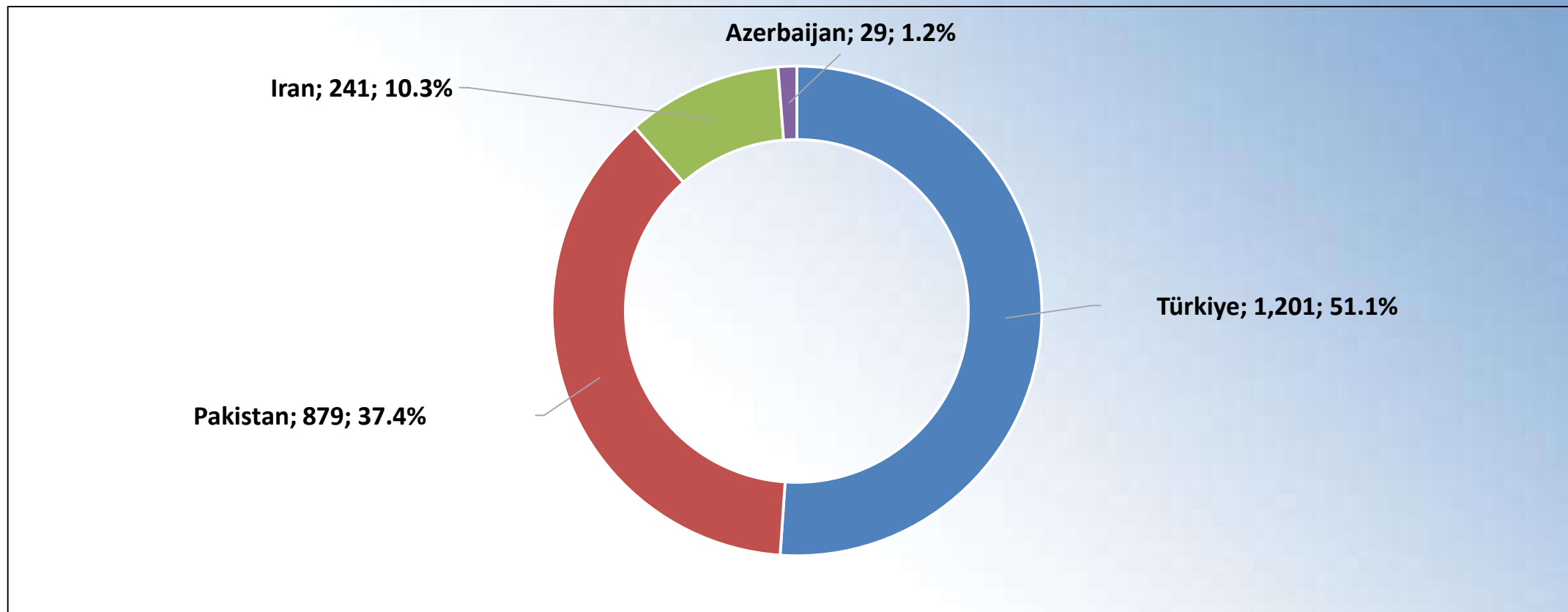
Performance – Steady Growth

- Scope of Operations
- Total Assets
- Profitability



Historical Financial Overview

Total disbursed loans amounting SDR 2.3 billion [USD 3.19 billion].



Total disbursed loans around 7 times of the paid-in capital.

Historical Financial Overview

Breakup of Total Loan Disbursed during 2008-2025 (Million USD)

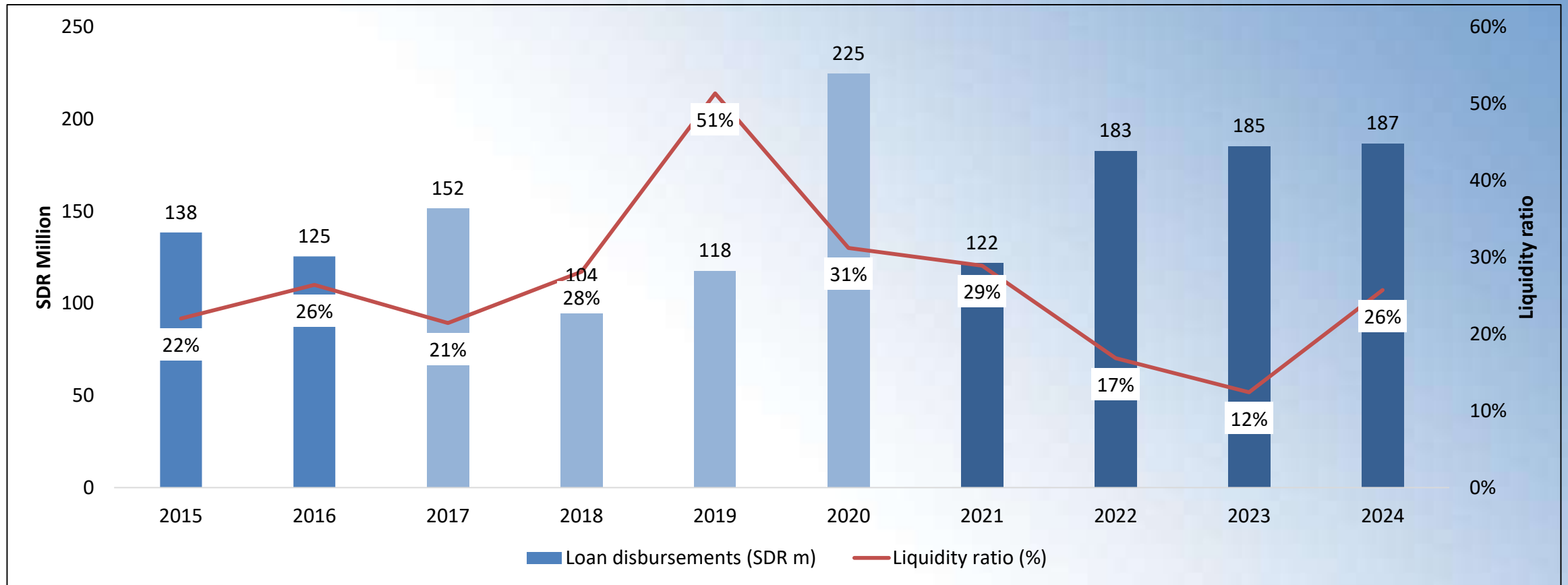
	Iran	Pakistan	Turkey	Azerbaijan	Total
M-SMEs Dev. Loans	52	63	400	14	529
Trade Finance	94	160	981	15	1251
Corporate Finance	89	840	114	10	1053
Project Finance	92	132	137	0	361
Total	328	1195	1632	39	3194

The Bank is looking for opportunities in Afghanistan & Kyrgyzstan for financing activities.

Historical Financial Overview

Ten-Year average annual loan disbursement: SDR 154 million.

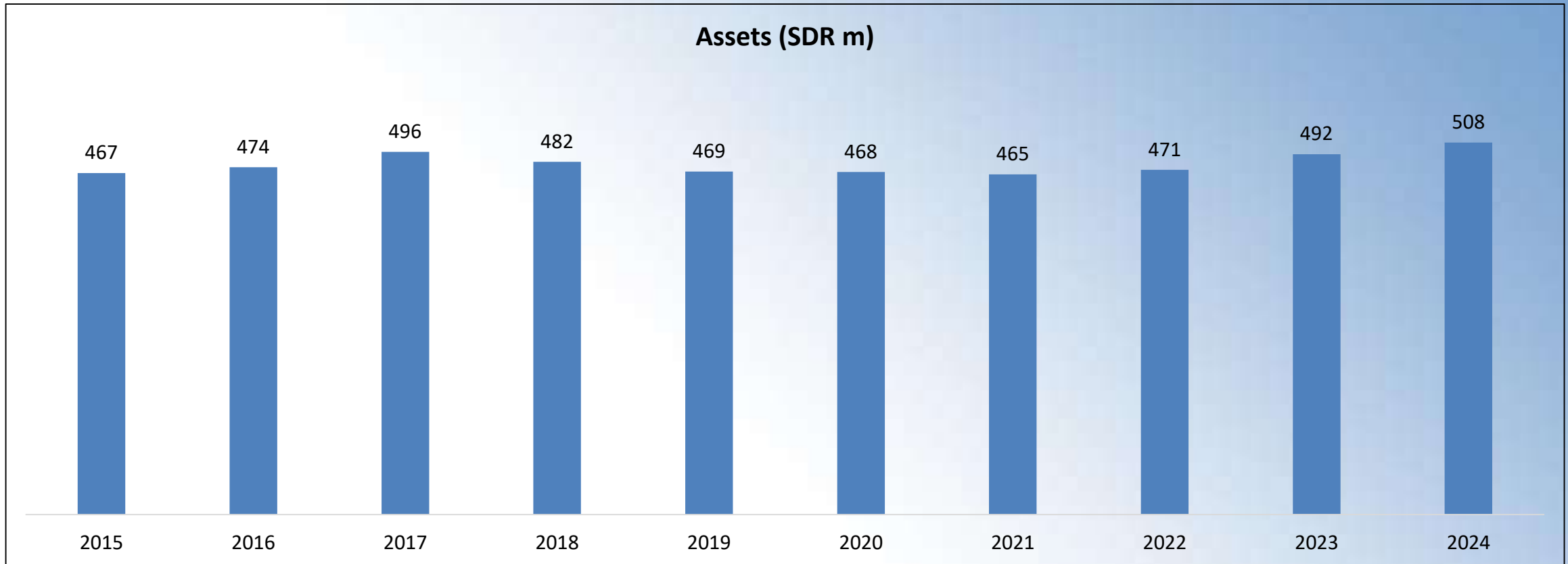
Ten-year average liquidity ratio: 26%.



Liquidity ratio as of 2024 is 25.7%.

Historical Financial Overview

Ten-year average asset growth rate is 1.05%.

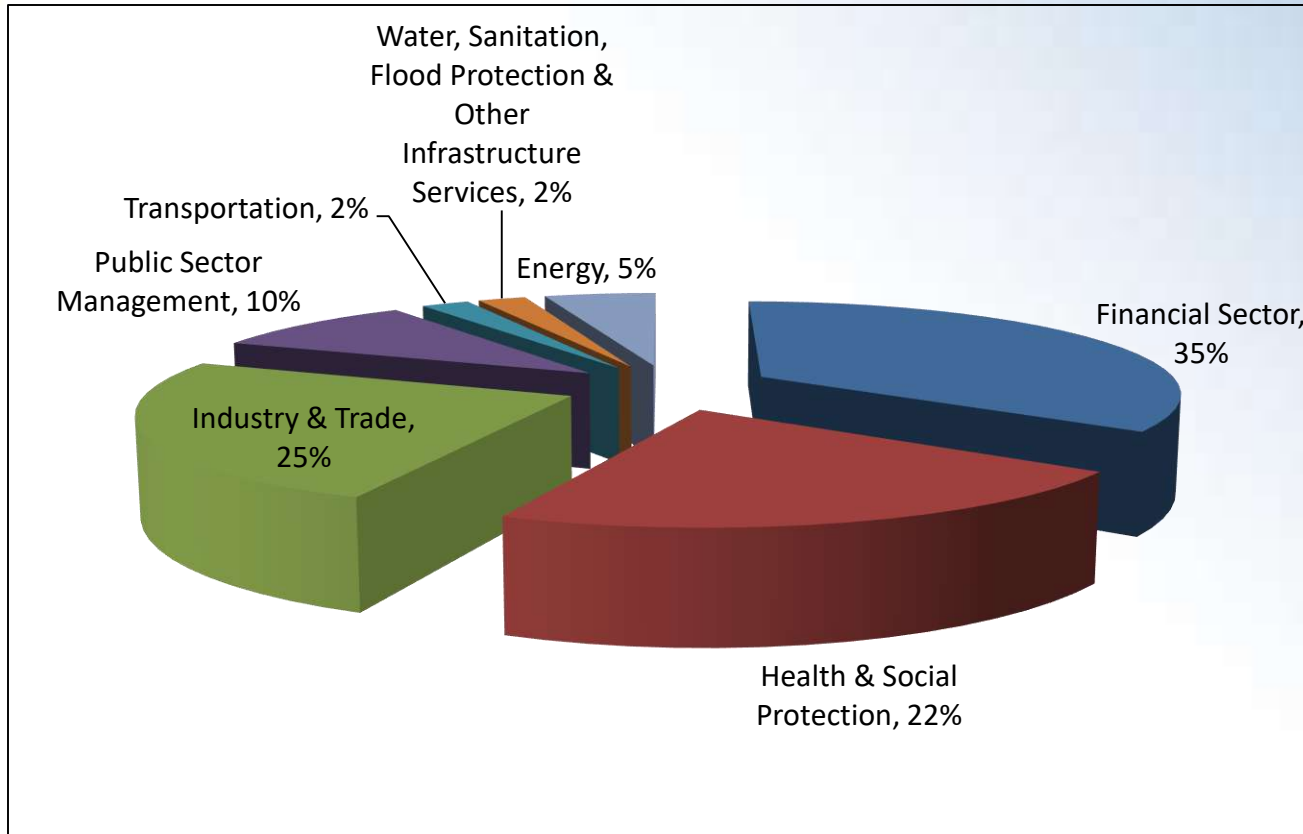


Our total assets have remained nearly stable, with only minimal growth over the period.

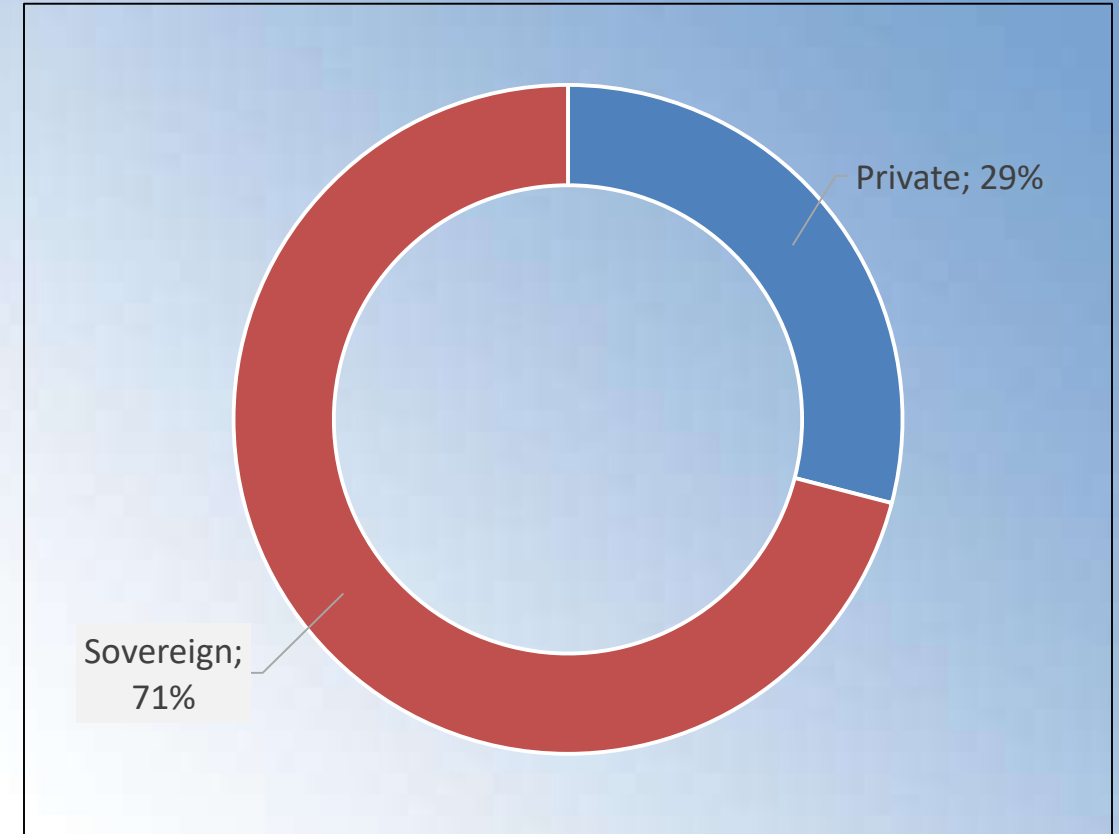
Loan Exposure – 2024

Total outstanding loans amounted SDR 315 million.

Loan exposure by sector 2024



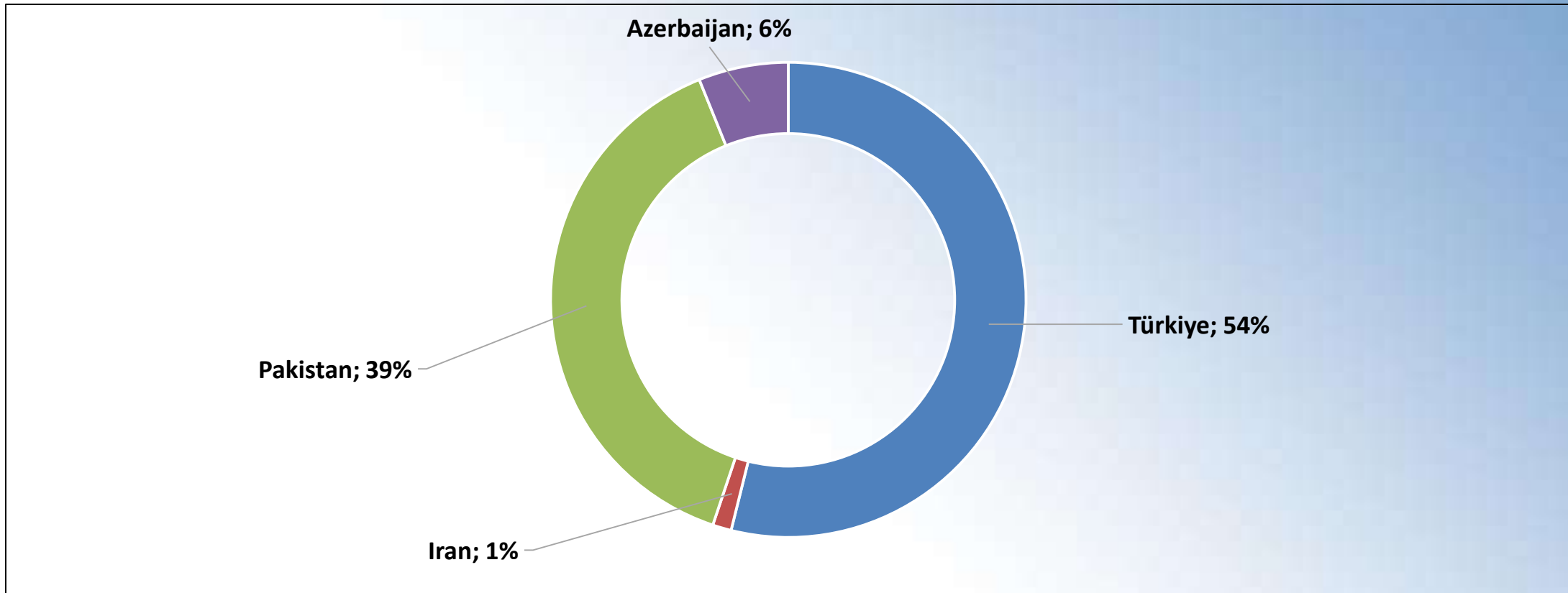
Loan exposure by segment 2024



Current Situation

Total outstanding loans amount to SDR 340 million (November 2025)

Loan exposure by location 2025



Main Achievements

- Good asset quality maintained throughout the period since inception in 2008 (Zero NPL).
- The outstanding loan portfolio has reached USD 462 million as end of 2025.
- Total loan disbursements have crossed USD 3.19 billion for the period 2008-2025.
- The Bank posted a net profit of USD 40 million in 2024, representing a 33% increase compared to the previous year.
- RoA: 5.8%-2024, (4.6%-2023).
- RoE: 6.3%-2024, (5%-2023).
- First External Credit Rating Score: The Bank obtained 'BB' rating from the Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI Ratings)
- First National Rating Score: The Bank obtained national rating in Türkiye 'AAA' rating from the JCR-Eurasia.

SNAPHOTS OF OPERATIONS IN THE MEMBER STATES

Iran Operation-I

Siazakh Irrigation Project- Provide agricultural water requirement for land use of about 7,680 hectares (Euro 16.8 mln)



Iran Operation-II

Tehran Province Water & Wastewater Company – Construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Shahriar-southwest of Tehran-for the benefit of more than 180 thousand population (Euro 18 mln)



Iran Operation-III

South Khorasan Water & Wastewater Company- Construction of wastewater treatment plant in Birjand City for the benefit of more than 140 thousand population (Euro 16.9 mln)



Pakistan Operation-I

Zorlu Energy Pakistan Limited-Wind Power Project -USD 18.5 million (56.4 MW)

[IFC & ADB co-finance, 'Middle East Renewable Deal of the Year' for 2011]



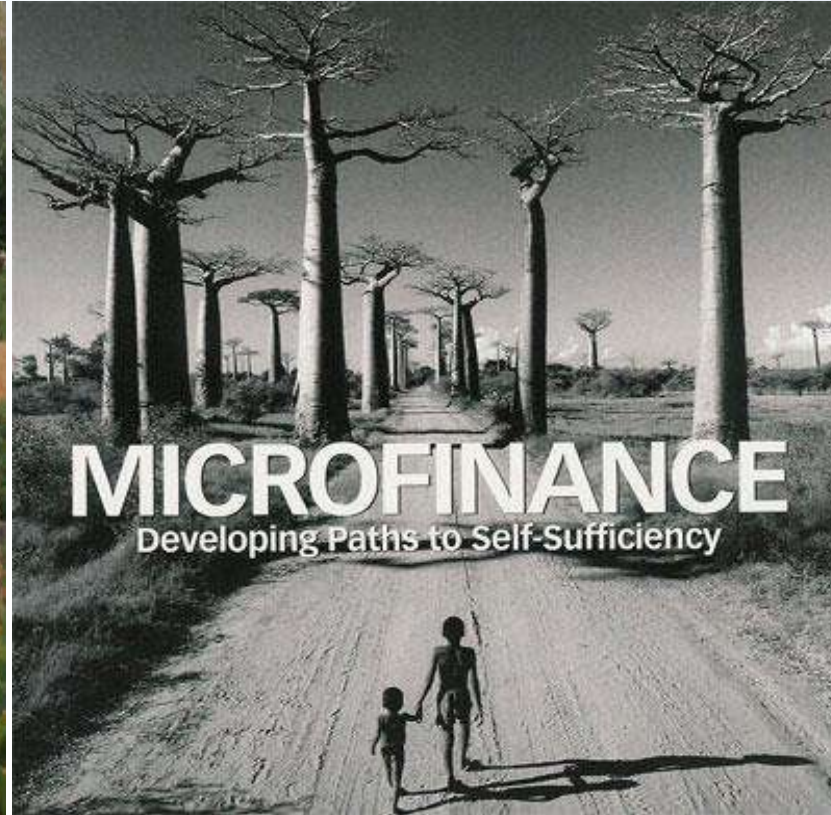
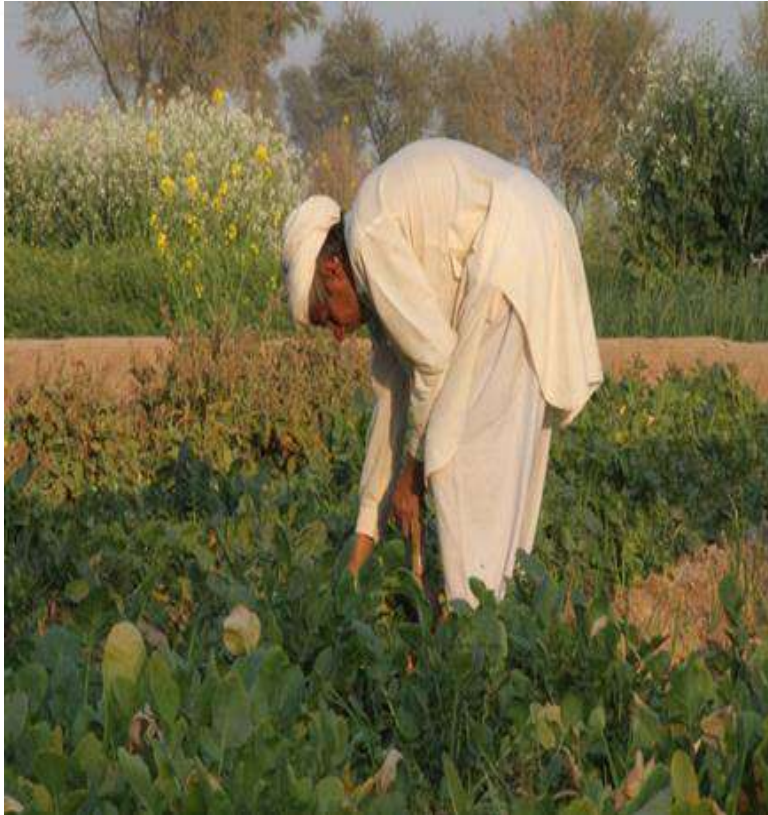
Pakistan Operation-II

DG Khan Cement Company-Establishment of Waste heat recovery and refuse driven fuel -USD 20.9 million



Pakistan Operation-III

Loans to Microfinance Institutions totaled-USD 20 million



Over 55,000 micro-entrepreneurs benefitted from intermediated funds of the Bank

Pakistan Operation-IV

Soft Loan Facility for flood recovery-USD 10 mln



Pakistan Operation-V

Pakistan Refinery Limited-Trade Finance Facility I & II
(USD 50 mln & 35 mln)



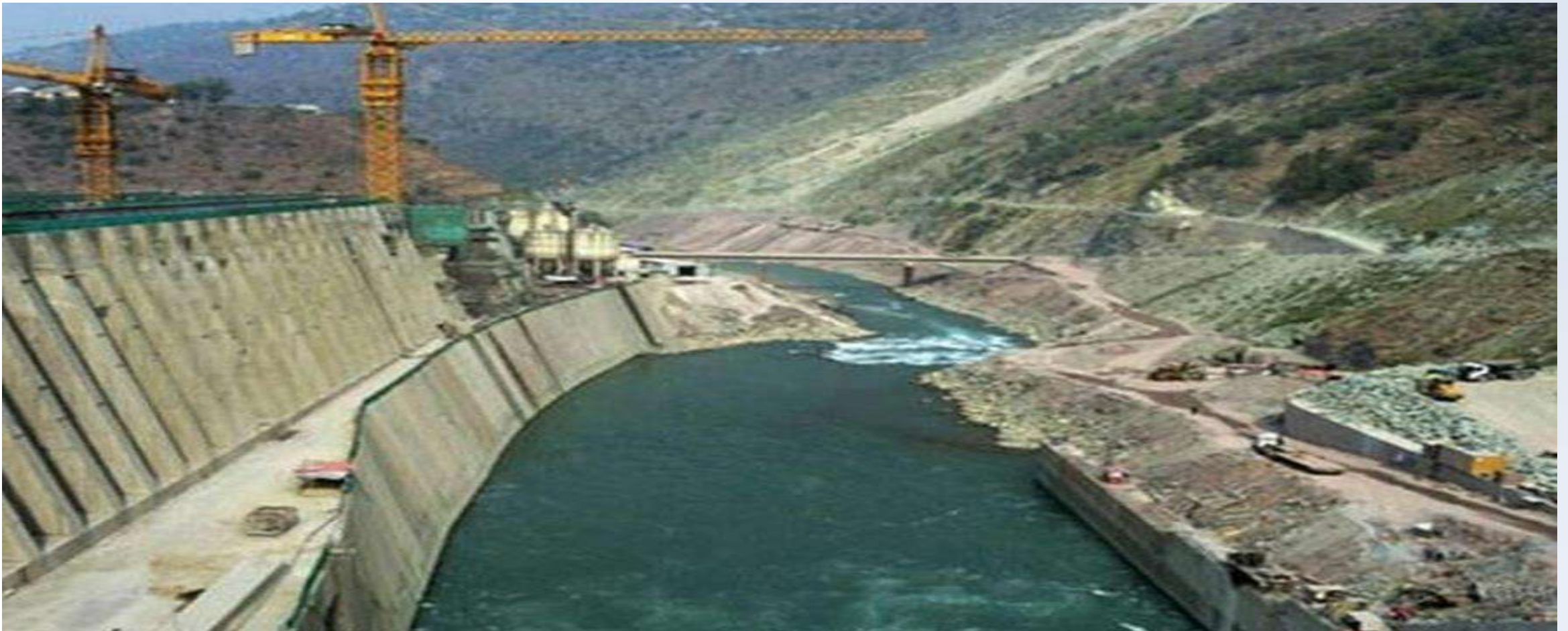
Pakistan Operation-VI

Harappa Power Pakistan-Solar energy (USD 8.2 million)



Pakistan Operation-VII

Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) - Mohmand Dam (USD 20 million)



Türkiye Operation-I

Istanbul Municipality-Procurement of subway vehicles for Metro Line Project (USD 35 million)



Türkiye Operation-II

Turkish Petroleum Refineries Company (TUPRAŞ)-Trade Finance Facility I & II (USD 20 mln & 30 mln)



Türkiye Operation-III

Loans to Turkish SMEs through financial institutions totaled-USD 410 million



Over 1,500 Turkish SMEs benefitted from intermediated funds of the Bank

Future Plans

- Encouraging the four ECO Member States, i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan to join the bank's membership.
- Increasing the subscribed and paid up capital of the bank.
- Increasing the bank's fund mobilization through issuance of FCY / Local Currency Bonds in Member States.
- Expanding the loan portfolio while mitigating risk.

Thank you

Nadeem Shahzad

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www.etdb.org

Annexure F

Being the Speech Delivered by Dr. Umar A. Oseni, Secretary-General, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Arbitration Centre, at the 30th Executive Committee & 20th General Assembly of the ECO-CCI in Karachi, Pakistan on 22 January 2026.

I. The Opening

Excellencies, President of the ECO-CCI, Distinguished Delegates, and the Visionaries of our Regional Business Community.

It is a profound privilege to address this 30th Executive Committee and 20th General Assembly. We stand at a milestone. Three decades of the ECO-CCI is not just a celebration of an institution; it is a celebration of a shared destiny. Look around this room. You represent a market of nearly 500 million people. You represent the vital link between East and West. But we all know that the bridge of trade is only as strong as the legal foundation it stands upon.

That is why the OIC Arbitration Centre exists. We are headquartered in Istanbul – a city that has served as the world’s marketplace for millennia. Today, we have transformed Istanbul into a global hub for dispute resolution, offering state-of-the-art facilities and a fully integrated e-case filing system that brings the future of justice to your fingertips.

II. Innovation in Action: The 2026 Framework

Distinguished Guests. We are not just "another" arbitration center. We are a specialized response to the unique needs of the OIC and ECO member states. I am proud to announce that as of this year, we are operating under our newly revised 2026 Arbitration and Mediation Rules.

These rules were designed for the digital age and the complexities of international commercial disputes. Whether you are dealing with a complex construction project in Central Asia or a high-stakes trade agreement in the Middle East, our framework provides:

- **Global Standard Excellence:** We aren't just following trends; we are setting them. The

OIC-AC is an active member of UNCITRAL Working Groups II and III, contributing directly to the global reforms of dispute settlement and Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).

- **The E-Case Revolution:** Our secure, end-to-end e-filing system means that geographic distance is no longer a barrier to justice.
- **Mediation-First Culture:** Under our 2026 Rules, mediation is not an afterthought. It is a sophisticated, confidential tool to preserve business relationships before they are broken by litigation.

A Critical Note for Existing Conflicts

One common misconception is that you need an OIC Arbitration Centre clause in your contract *before* a problem starts. Let me be clear: Even if your current contracts do not mention us, we can still help. If you are facing an existing dispute today—even as we speak—the OIC Arbitration Centre can facilitate a Submission Agreement. If both parties want a neutral, cost-effective, and culturally nuanced resolution, our doors are open to you right now.

III. The Four Policy Pillars of the OIC Arbitration Centre

To understand our value to the ECO members, you must understand our four core policy objectives:

- 1. Enhancing Legal Predictability** Investors hate surprises. We work to ensure that when an investor from Pakistan enters the market in Azerbaijan, they know exactly what the "rules of the game" are. We provide a stable legal climate that converts "risk" into "opportunity."
- 2. Promoting Intra-Trade and Investment** By providing specialized Investment Arbitration, we protect the capital flowing between our member states. We act as a shield for your investments, ensuring that disputes are settled by experts who understand the regional context.
- 3. Dispute Prevention and Mitigation (DPM):** This is our most innovative solution. Why wait for a fire when you can prevent the spark? Our DPM services include early neutral evaluations and dispute prevention solutions. We help you manage friction *during* the project, not years after it has failed.
- 4. Strategic Autonomy and Capacity Building:** By using the OIC Arbitration Centre, we keep

our regional disputes within our region. We are building a pool of world-class arbitrators from our own member states, ensuring that our economic destiny is governed by those who understand our values.

IV. The Value Proposition for ECO Members

Why should the ECO-CCI choose OIC Arbitration Centre? The synergy is natural. All ECO states are OIC members. When you choose us, you are choosing an institution that understands the international commercial landscape but respects regional sensibilities. We offer world-class services without the prohibitive costs of Western European centers.

- **Enforceability:** Our awards are final, binding, and enforceable globally under the New York Convention.
- **Neutrality:** Istanbul provides a neutral, prestigious, and accessible platform for all parties.

We are here to serve as your Legal Secretariat for Prosperity. We don't just settle cases; we protect the "Trust" that makes trade possible. The ECO-CCI **should designate the OIC Arbitration Centre as a neutral platform for resolving all disputes involving member states and businesses** within the region and beyond.

V. Closing: A Call to Partnership

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. As you deliberate on the future of the ECO-CCI during this General Assembly, I ask you to consider one question: Is your business protected for the challenges of tomorrow? Our 2026 Rules are ready. Our Istanbul headquarters is open. Our digital systems are live.

My call to action is simple: Reach out to us. Whether you need a training session for your Chamber's legal team, a review of your investment protection clauses, or assistance with an ongoing commercial conflict – the OIC Arbitration Centre is your partner.

Let us move forward together, turning every dispute into a resolution and every resolution into a stronger regional bond. Thank you for your time, and I wish you a highly successful General

Assembly.

22.01.2026

Annexure G

Honorable Chief Guest,

Esteemed Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of (FPCCI)

Distinguished Presidents, Participants

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye and Turkish private sector, I extend my respectful greetings.

Our President, Mr. Rifat Hisarcıkliođlu, couldn't attend this ECO CCI meeting, due to a long-scheduled commitment.

He sends his regards and respects.

I would like to congratulate FPCCI and colleagues for organizing successful events.

Especially our region—and indeed the entire world—has grown tired of conflicts, divisions, and wars.

We hope for an end to oppression and conflict everywhere.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are at a time when regional cooperation has become very crucial.

The global economy is changing rapidly and uncertainty is everywhere.

Trade and tariff wars are hitting the international trade order.

In these times, cooperation is needed more than ever.

As ECO member states, we represent a population of almost 500 million.

The ECO region has more than one-third of the world's hydrocarbon resources.

Another key advantage of our region is that our countries lie along the historical Silk Road.

Yet, despite this population, size, and resources, our share is just over 3% of world trade.

I regret sharing these figures as we have enormous potential—but we are not utilizing it.

Let us not forget: without trade, there is no peace or prosperity.

Without trade, there can be no stability or development.

Dear Friends,

As ECO Chamber, we have not been able to convene for a long time.

This is our third event in over 5 years after Business Forum in Susha

For years, we have advocated for a permanent secretariat for the ECO Chamber.

As TOBB, we are ready to assume this responsibility.

We are ready to take the lead in establishing a permanent secretariat.

Dear Friends,

It is disappointing for the business world that the ECOTA has still not been implemented.

We must now move forward and bring ECOTA into force.

All countries should become members of the ECO Trade and Development Bank.

Connectivity is another area where we are lagging and need to make progress.

We are located on the historical Silk Road.

Our customs procedures are unfortunately still not trade-friendly.

We must facilitate trade and investment.

We must make our countries more attractive for investors.

To attract investors, we must provide internationally recognized arbitration mechanisms.

We need to promote the OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul.

This is our common asset. We need to support and benefit from this dispute settlement mechanism.

With today's ECO meetings,

I wish to start the new era for the ECO CCI.

Thank you very much for your attention.



Annexure H

**The Meeting of Executive Committee
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry
(ECO-CCI)**

**Statement by the
President ECO Science Foundation
Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi
Karachi, I.R. of Pakistan**

January 22, 2026

H. E. Honorable Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and ECO-CCI

H. E. Honorable Mr. Yousef Hassan KHalawi, Sec General, ICCD

H. E. Honorable Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President FPCCI, and
Member national Committee ECO-CCI

Distinguished Members of the Executive Committee of the ECO Chamber of
Commerce and Industry,

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-O-Alaikum and a Very Good Day to you all!

On behalf of ECOSF and on my personal behalf I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the invitation and for organizing this important Executive Committee Meeting.

Allow me, at the outset, to briefly introduce the **ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)** and to highlight how science, innovation, and knowledge-based cooperation can meaningfully contribute to the shared economic objectives of our Member States.

ECOSF is an **intergovernmental organization operating under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**. Our core mandate is to promote **science, technology, innovation, and capacity building** across ECO Member Countries, with the ultimate aim of supporting **sustainable development, economic growth, and regional economic, scientific and technological integration**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, **science and technology are no longer optional tools—they are essential drivers of competitiveness, productivity, and inclusive growth**. ECOSF firmly believes that inclusive economic development in the ECO region must be underpinned by strong scientific collaboration, innovation ecosystems, and skilled human capital.

Over the years, ECOSF has actively worked with Member Countries to:

- Strengthen **scientific and technological cooperation**;
- Support **research, innovation, and knowledge exchange**;
- Promote **capacity building of young scientists, researchers, and professionals**;
- Facilitate **regional networks** connecting academia, industry, and policy-makers.

These efforts directly complement the objectives of ECO-CCI, particularly in fostering **private-sector growth, entrepreneurship, and cross-border trade and investment**.

Distinguished participants,

One of the key priorities of ECOSF is to **bridge the gap between science and the economy**. We strongly advocate for closer collaboration between **research institutions, industry, chambers of commerce, and the private sector**. In addition, ECOSF seeks to accelerate the translation of scientific knowledge into economic and societal value by supporting innovation ecosystems, talent development, and entrepreneurship, while engaging policymakers to ensure a supportive regulatory environment for sustainable, science-driven growth.

Innovation-driven enterprises, technology transfer, and commercialization of research are vital to enhancing industrial productivity and creating high-value jobs across our region.

In this context, ECOSF has been engaging with Member Countries to support:

- **Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) promotion**
- **Innovation and technology-based SMEs;**
- **Start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystems;**
- **Digital transformation, green technologies, and sustainable industrial solutions;**
- **Evidence-based policy-making** for economic and industrial development.

We see tremendous potential for **institutional collaboration between ECOSF and ECO-CCI**, particularly in areas such as:

- Joint forums linking **scientists, innovators, and business leaders;**
- Capacity-building programs focused on **technology commercialization and industrial innovation;**
- Regional initiatives promoting **research-industry partnerships;**
- Support for **youth, women, and emerging entrepreneurs** through science-based enterprises.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ECO region is rich in **human capital, natural resources, and strategic connectivity**. By aligning scientific cooperation with economic priorities, we can accelerate progress toward **diversified economies, increased intra-regional trade, IIT (Intra-Industry Trade) and shared prosperity**.

ECOSF remains fully committed to working closely with all ECO Member Countries and partner institutions. We believe that by strengthening collaboration with ECO-CCI and the private sector, we can jointly contribute to **sustainable economic development, innovation-led growth, and regional resilience**.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm ECOSF's readiness to:

- Deepen cooperation with ECO-CCI;
- Support Member Countries in science-driven economic initiatives;
- Contribute to the realization of ECO's long-term vision for regional sustainable development.

I express my sincere thanks to FPCCI, ICCD and the ECO-CCI for their efforts in convening and organizing this Meeting.

I thank you once again for this opportunity and wish the Executive Committee Meeting every success.

Thank you.



TIR Services



NLC Construction



Border Terminals



Dry Ports



Logistics Parks



Marine & Air Services



Real Time Tracking

Uzbekistan – Pakistan Business Forum 2025



Karachi, Pakistan - 04th Dec 2025



NLC THROUGH AGES





FREIGHT STATIONS (18)

-  KARACHI
-  SARA-E-MUHAJIR
-  HYDERABAD
-  D.I.KHAN
-  ROHRI
-  MUSAKHEL
-  KOT SABZAL
-  KHAUR
-  BAHAWALPUR
-  RAWALPINDI
-  MULTAN
-  GUJRANWALA
-  LAHORE
-  GWADAR
-  QUETTA
-  TAFTAN
-  CHAMAN
-  SOST

FACILITIES

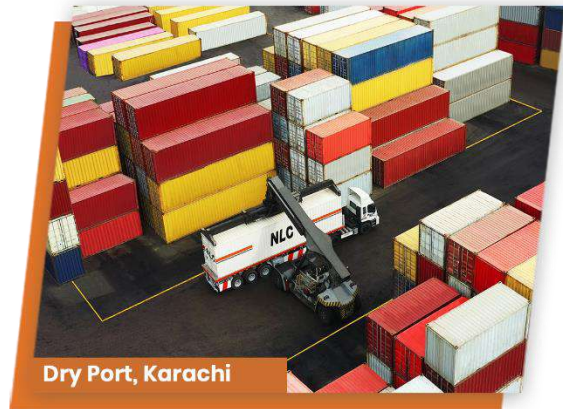
- Repair / Maintenance / Service
- Inspection & Quality Assurance
- Fueling
- Boarding & Lodging



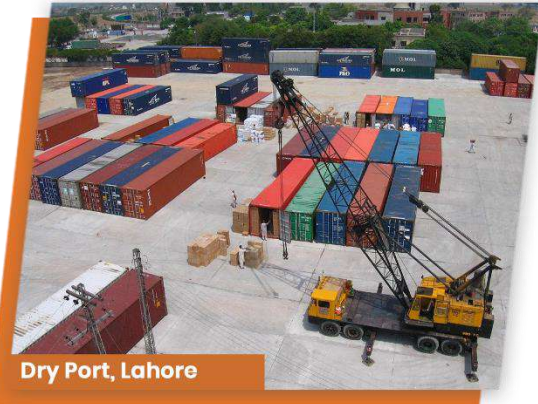
DRY PORTS

DRY PORTS

- 📍 KARACHI
- 📍 LAHORE
- 📍 HYDERABAD
- 📍 QUETTA
- 📍 SOST



Dry Port, Karachi



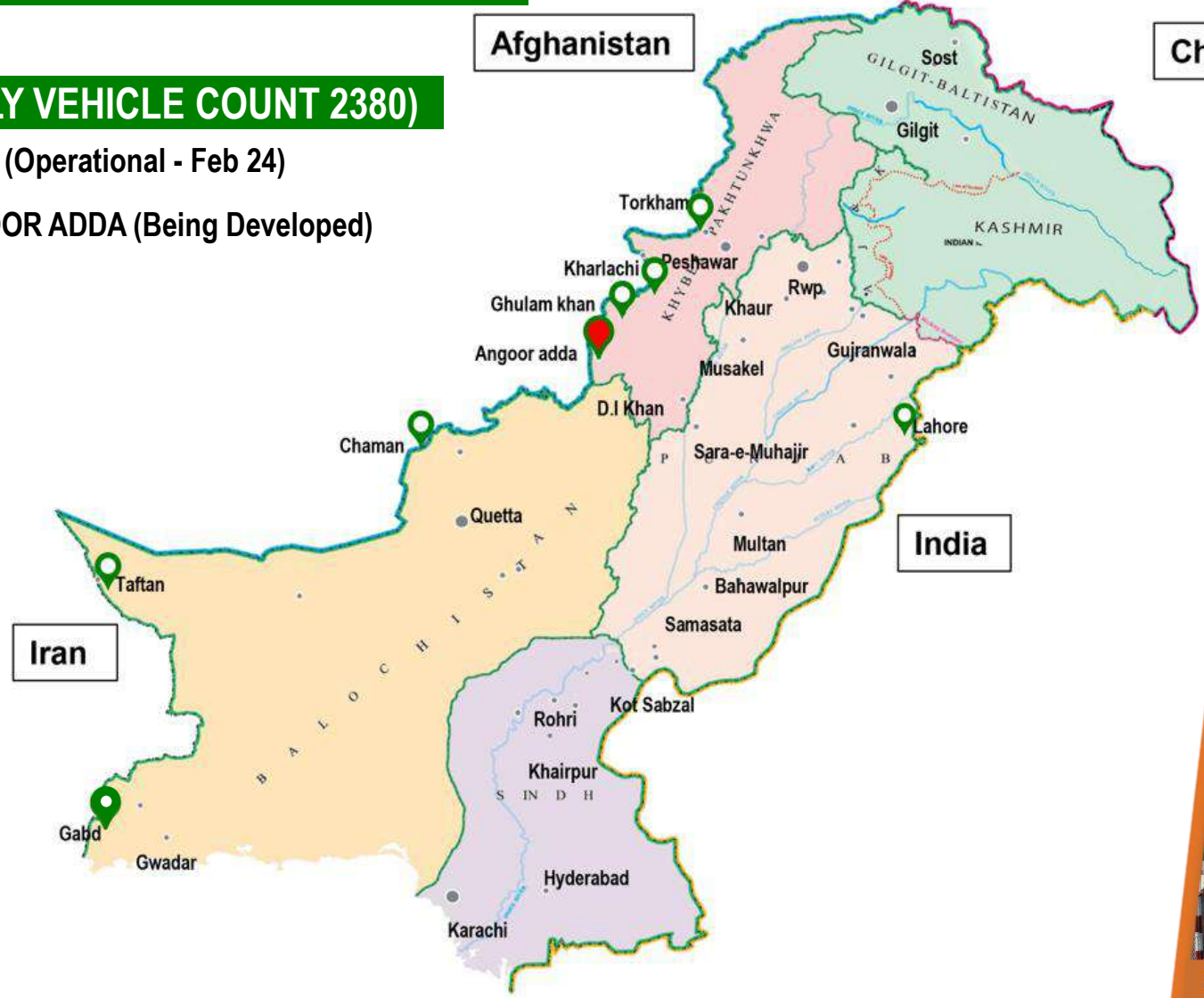
Dry Port, Lahore



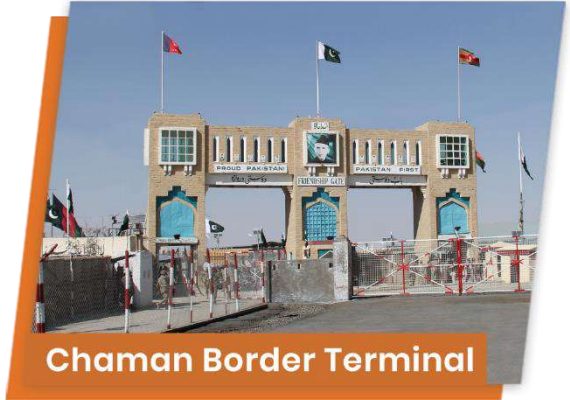
OFFICIAL BORDER TERMINAL OPERATOR OF PAKISTAN

BORDER TERMINALS - (DAILY VEHICLE COUNT 2380)

- 📍 TAFTAN
- 📍 KHARLACHI
- 📍 GHULAM KHAN KALAY
- 📍 WAHGA
- 📍 CHAMAN (ITTMS)
- 📍 TORKHAM (ITTMS)
- 📍 GABD (Operational - Feb 24)
- 📍 ANGOOR ADDA (Being Developed)



Wahga Border Terminal



Chaman Border Terminal



Off Dock Terminal

Operational

Sep 2024

Area

16 Acres / 3 x Sheds

Services

- Handling of bonded cargo of all categories
- Imports & Export (CFS)
 - Imports & Exports (CY)
 - Refrigerated cargo



NLC LOGISTICS PARKS

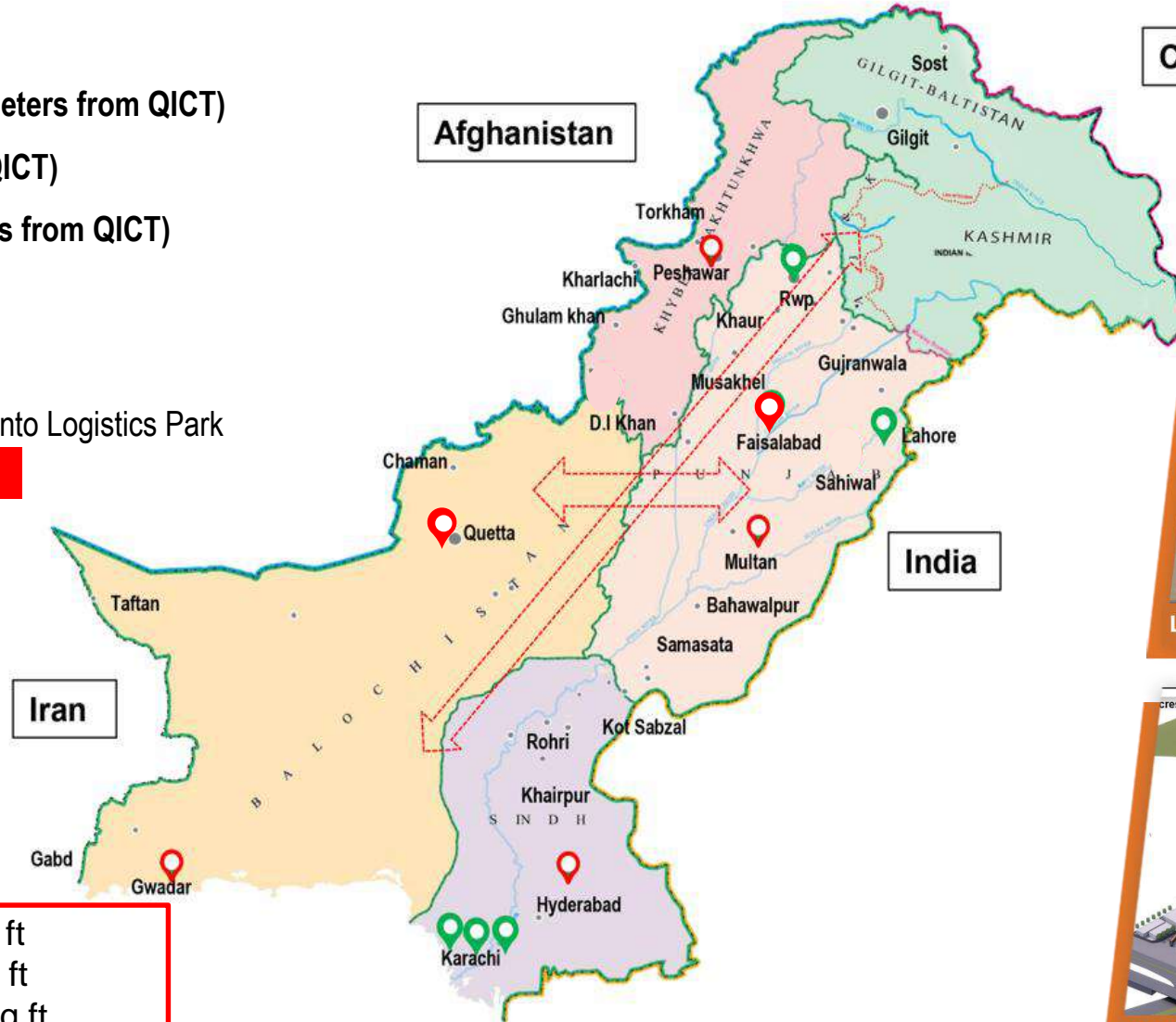
- 📍 KARACHI NORTHERN BYPASS (50 Kilometers from QICT)
- 📍 LANDHI – KARACHI (7 Kilometers from QICT)
- 📍 SULTANABAD* – KARACHI (45 Kilometers from QICT)
- 📍 LAHORE
- 📍 RAWALPINDI

*Container yard at Sultanabad being converted into Logistics Park

PLANNED LOGISTICS PARKS

- 📍 QUETTA
- 📍 PESHAWAR
- 📍 MULTAN
- 📍 HYDERABAD
- 📍 FAISALABAD
- 📍 GWADAR

- Storage Capacity - 6.7 Mn sq ft
- Covered Storage - 1.5 Mn Sq ft
- Temp Con Storage - 250,000 sq ft
- Handling Capacity - 80,000 containers / year



China

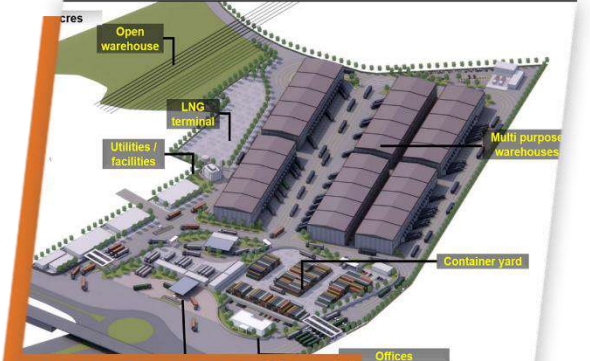
Afghanistan

India

Iran



Logistics Park, Lahore



KNB Logistics Park, Karachi



Flat Bed (Плоский Кровать)



Box Cargo (Коробка Груз)



High Wall (Высокий Стена)



Half Body (Половина Тело)



Reefer (Рефрижератор)



LPG Bowzer (сжиженный
нефтяной газ Баузер)



Bowzer (Баузер)

1500 x task vehicles
4000 x pool vehicles
1000 x new task vehicles
(being procured)



Curtain Trailer
(Занавес Трейлер)



Legend	
City	●
Seaport	⚓
Border Terminal	▲
Route State	
Exec Routes (Sep 21 to Oct 23)	— (Blue)
New Routes (Nov 23 - May 25)	— (Orange)
Planned routes	- - - (Red)



- Major Destinations Pts**
1. Istanbul – Turkiye
 2. Ankara – Turkiye
 3. Izmir – Turkiye
 4. Mersin – Turkiye
 5. Kashgar – China
 6. Baku – Azerbaijan
 7. Baku (via Caspian Sea)
 8. Ashgabat – Turkmenistan
 9. Tashkent – Uzbekistan
 10. Almaty – Kazakhstan
 11. Karaganda – Kazakhstan
 12. Astana – Kazakhstan
 13. Bishkek – Kyrgyzstan
 14. Dushanbe – Tajikistan
 15. Derbent – Russia
 16. Warsaw – Poland

Pakistan to Russia, major trade milestone achieved with fruit delivery via land routes

NLC's land convoy delivers fresh produce to Russia, spearheading regional trade growth

Posted on March 10, 2024

Retrieved from: <https://www.samaa.tv/2024/03/10/pakistan-to-russia-major-trade-milestone-achieved-with-fruit-delivery-via-land-routes>

A convoy of NLC vehicles successfully made its way to Russia, carrying a consignment of kiwifruit. Departing from Sargodha, 16 vehicles embarked on a journey spanning 6,000 kilometers. Upon reaching their destination, 14 vehicles arrived in Derbent, while 2 made their way to Greznyi. NLC vehicles traversed through three countries to enter Russia, marking a significant feat in regional trade facilitation.

NLC launches cargo service for Shanghai, Kashgar

Regional, International, Foreigner

Seafood container from Pakistan reaches China

Marka first-ever transportation of seafood containers by land via CPEC

BEIJING: In a significant development, a truck laden with cold chain containers carrying seafood from Pakistan has successfully reached Kashgar city in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, traversing the cross border land route.

NLC EFFORTS - MULTIMODAL OPERATIONS





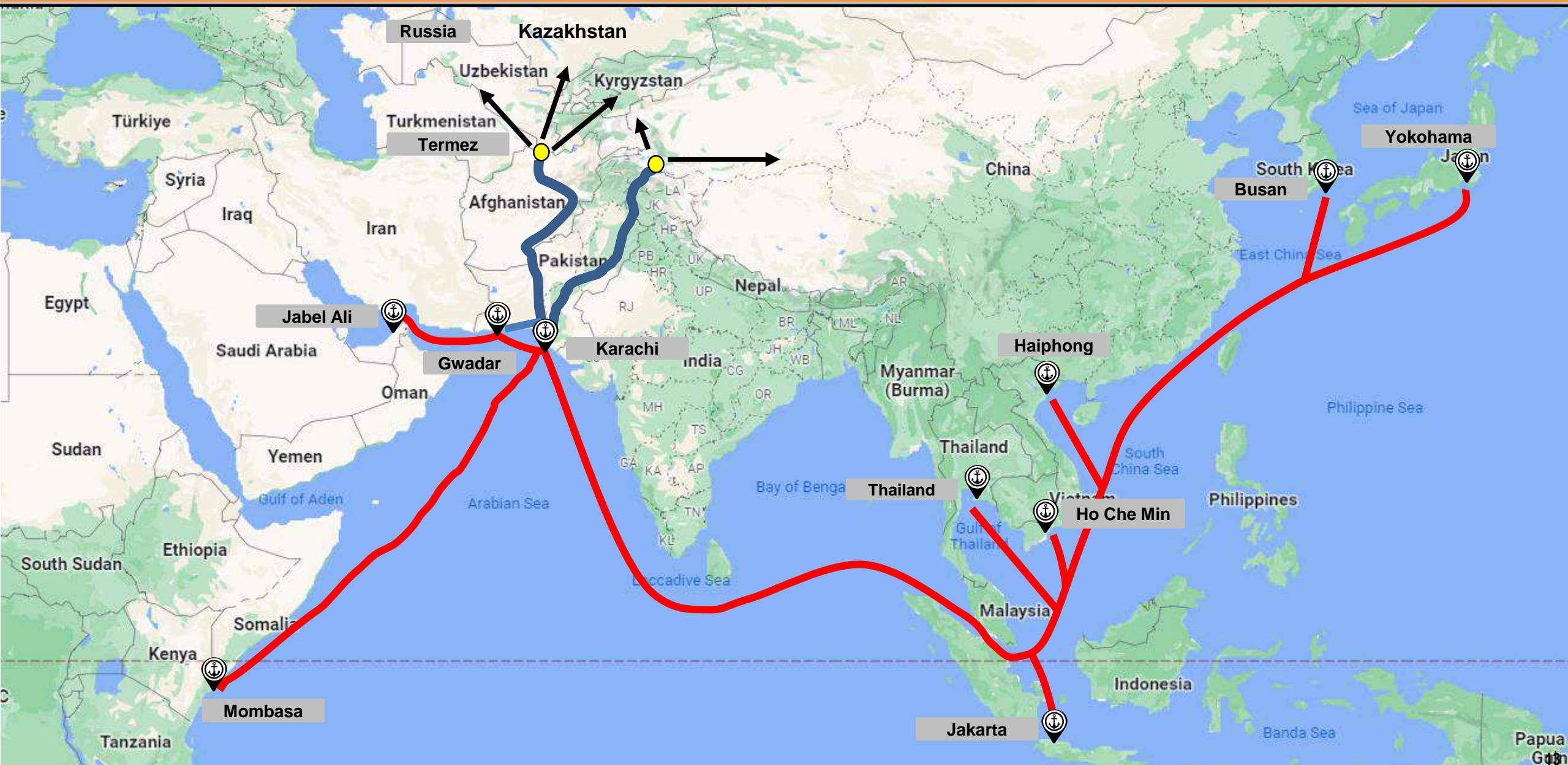
Operational

Planned

Facilities
Customs Offices
Truck Freight Stations
Container Terminals
Ambient Warehousing
Cold Chain Warehousing
Driver Boarding-Lodging
Weighment Facilities
Loading-Unloading Svcs
Parking & Storage



LINKING DOTS ON HORIZON



NLC TIR REEFER OPERATIONS TO CARs & RUSSIA Using China & Termez Free Zone Hub



**NLC TIR Reefer Ops (Banana) To Kyrgyzstan -
Dec 23 (Бананы В Кыргызстан)**



**NLC TIR reefer ops (Fish) to China -
Jan 24 (Рыба В Китай)**



**NLC TIR Reefer Ops (Orange) To Russia -
Feb 24 (Оранжевый В Россию)**



**NLC TIR Reefer Ops (Potato & Cucumber) To
Tajikistan - Apr 24 (Картофель И Огурцы В
Таджикистан)**



**NLC TIR reefer ops (Cherry) to China
- Jun 24 (Вишня В Китай)**



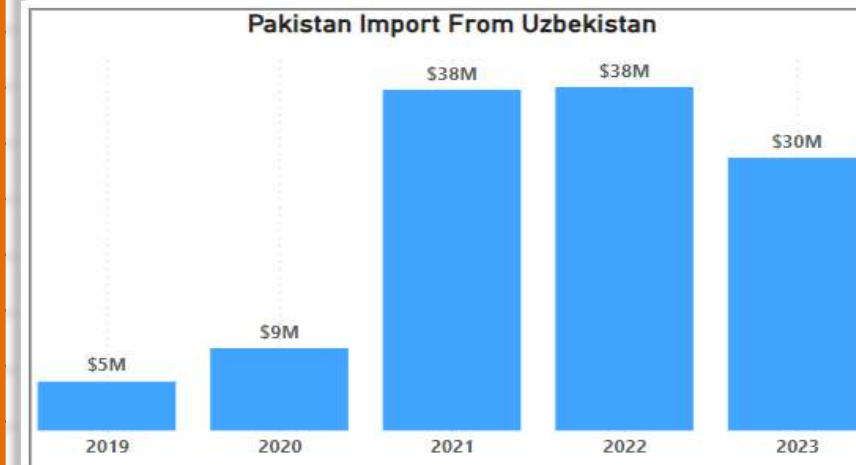
**NLC TIR reefer ops (Mango) to
Uzbekistan - Aug 24 (Вишня В Китай)**



Uzbekistan Trade Statistics (Annual)

	Import (in Mn USD)	Export (in Mn USD)
Global	2,800	1,500
Pakistan	111	124

Imports from Pakistan	Exports to Pakistan
Pharma products (USD 18 Mn)	Dried legumes (USD 77 Mn)
Potatoes (USD 16 Mn)	Pure cotton yarn (USD 59 Mn)
Rice (USD 13 Mn)	Raw zinc (USD 6 Mn)
Unpackaged pharma products (USD 4 Mn)	Sulphur (USD 1 Mn)
Tropical fruits (USD 3 Mn)	Ground nuts (USD 1 Mn)
Citrus (USD 2 Mn)	Buckwheat (USD 0.77 Mn)
Oily seeds (USD 1 Mn)	Mineral or chemical fertilizers (USD 0.73 Mn)
Matches (USD 1 Mn)	Grapes (USD 0.50 Mn)
Jute woven fabric (USD 0.90 Mn)	Looms (USD 0.46)
Other edible products (USD 0.89 Mn)	Ethylene polymers (USD 0.29 Mn)





H.E Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev
Ambassador of Uzbekistan



Logistic Business Forum
Uzbekistan



IRU Officials
Uzbekistan



- Logistic Hub / Warehouse / Cross Dock Facilities in Uzbekistan
- Logistics Parks / Warehouses / Off-Dock Terminal near Karachi Port
- Regular cargo shuttle service between Uzbekistan (Termez) & Pakistan (Torkham/Karachi)
- Bilateral trade enhancement - Trade facilitation centers in Uzbekistan & Pakistan (Focus on agri products)
- Transport of perishable and agri goods through Reefer services
- Suggested Composition of Focus Group
 - IRU - Uzbekistan
 - IRU - Pakistan
 - Ministry of Transport, Uzbekistan
 - Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan
 - Ministry of Communication, Pakistan
 - National Logistic Corporation



**Import – Export – Transit
Air, Sea, Land & Rail**

CY/CFS, FOT, FCL/LCL

**Multimodal Services, Specialized
Cargo and Project Handling Service**



Air & Sea Freight	Karachi / Gwadar Port Handling	Cross Dock Facilities In Karachi / Gwadar	Customs Facilitation At Pakistan Ports	Transportation (Road & Rail)	Support Services	Infra Construction Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine shipping • Shipping line handling (Gwadar & Karachi) • Air chartering services • Air freight services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container terminal at Karachi & Gwadar • Terminal handling, documentation and payments (on behalf of shipper / consignee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-stuffing into NLC containers • Cross-docking for multimodal operations • Bonded warehousing & storage facilities (Karachi, Quetta & Dalbandin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom brokerage & clearance at Karachi / Gwadar Ports • Dry port facilitation- (Karachi & Quetta) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated road transportation (bulk, container & special cargo) • TIR transportation • Multimodal transportation • Bonded cargo services • Real time tracking services • Reefer Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated NLC helicopter & air services 	<p>NLC construction capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site / camp • Earthwork & road infrastructure • Residential complex • Construction of warehousing & storage at site

Agenda No. 4 (a)

WORKING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM: TRADE FACILITATION

Trade facilitation has become a central pillar of modern trade policy, directly influencing competitiveness, market integration, and the ability of economies to attract investment. In an increasingly interconnected global economy, efficient border procedures, transparent regulations, and predictable trade regimes are essential to reduce transaction costs, shorten delivery times, and integrate businesses - particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs)- into regional and global value chains.

For the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), trade facilitation is not merely a technical issue; it is a strategic imperative. Despite the region's vast geographic expanse, shared historical and cultural linkages, and rich endowment of natural and human resources, intra-ECO trade remains limited, accounting for only about 7–8 percent of total trade of member states. This level is significantly lower than that of other regional blocs such as the European Union, ASEAN, and NAFTA, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated and decisive action.

1. REGIONAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The ECO region comprises economies at varying stages of development, with differing institutional capacities, infrastructure quality, and degrees of openness to trade and investment. Historically, many member states adopted inward-looking policies characterized by high tariffs, non-tariff barriers, complex customs procedures, and weak trade-related infrastructure. These constraints have disproportionately affected SMEs, which often lack the financial and technical capacity to navigate cumbersome regulatory environments. They have also discouraged foreign direct investment, as investors rely on efficient import and export systems for inputs, machinery, and intermediate goods.

High trade costs, limited information flows, inadequate connectivity, and weak trade complementarities continue to inhibit regional trade integration. While

ECO member states collectively account for a modest share of global trade, their combined economic potential—given their strategic location linking Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean—remains largely untapped.

2. ECOTA

The ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) was conceived as a cornerstone of regional trade integration. Signed in 2003 and entering into force in 2008 for a limited number of ratifying states, ECOTA aimed to progressively reduce tariffs on a substantial share of traded goods and lay the foundation for an ECO Free Trade Area. However, due to incomplete ratification and limited implementation, the agreement has yet to deliver its intended outcomes.

In the current global trade environment—marked by supply chain re-alignment, digitalization, and regionalization—there is a compelling case to revitalize ECOTA and align it with contemporary trade facilitation standards. Effective implementation of ECOTA, supported by transparent rules, simplified procedures, and mutual recognition mechanisms, can significantly enhance intra-regional trade, improve resilience against external shocks, and contribute to sustainable economic growth across the ECO region.

3. TRADE FACILITATION INSTRUMENTS AND INITIATIVES

Importance trade facilitation instruments offer immediate opportunities for progress:

- i. **Transit and Transport Facilitation:** The full and effective utilization of international transit systems, including the TIR Convention—now acceded to by all ECO member states—can significantly improve overland connectivity, reduce border delays, and create new trade corridors linking Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.
- ii. **Customs Modernization and Digitalization:** Adoption of risk-based customs controls, electronic documentation, and interoperable customs systems can enhance transparency, reduce clearance times, and strengthen revenue collection without impeding trade flows.
- iii. **Private Sector Engagement:** The business community, through ECO-CCI and national chambers, has a critical role in identifying bottlenecks,

sharing market intelligence, and supporting policy formulation that reflects commercial realities.

Trade Promotion and Information Sharing:

Regional trade fairs, business forums, dedicated ECO platforms, and regular engagement with diplomatic missions can help bridge information gaps and promote business-to-business linkages.

Vision and Policy Recommendations

To unlock the full trade potential of the ECO region, this working paper proposes the following strategic directions:

- i. Accelerate implementation and modernization of ECOTA, with a view to its evolution into a comprehensive ECO Free Trade Framework.
- ii. Harmonize and simplify customs and border procedures, with special focus on SMEs and land-locked member states.
- iii. Leverage transit and transport conventions, including TIR and ECO transit agreements, to operationalize regional connectivity.
- iv. Strengthen public-private dialogue through ECO-CCI to ensure that trade facilitation reforms are practical, inclusive, and business-driven.
- v. Promote digital trade facilitation tools, data sharing, and capacity-building initiatives across member states.

CONCLUSION

Trade facilitation represents one of the most cost-effective and impactful avenues for deepening economic cooperation within the ECO region. By moving from agreements to action, and from fragmentation to coordination, ECO member states can transform their geographic proximity and shared heritage into tangible economic gains. A renewed commitment to trade facilitation will not only expand intra-regional trade but also position the ECO region as a competitive and reliable partner in the global trading system.

Agenda No. 4 (b)

WORKING PAPER

**AGENDA ITEM: PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT, AND SMES IN
THE ECO REGION**

Industry, investment, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constitute the backbone of sustainable economic development. Together, they drive economic growth, export expansion, employment generation, technological advancement, and social stability. Domestic and foreign investment plays a pivotal role in poverty alleviation and job creation, while SMEs serve as engines of innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth—particularly in developing and emerging economies.

For the ECO region, strengthening industrial capacity, mobilizing investment, and empowering SMEs is essential to achieving balanced growth, economic resilience, and deeper regional integration.

1. REGIONAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The ECO region comprises a diverse group of economies at varying stages of development, institutional capacity, and openness to trade and investment. Historically, several ECO member states pursued inward-looking policies characterized by high tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and restrictive investment regimes. As a result, industrial sector contribution to GDP remains modest in many countries, and intra-regional trade continues to account for only a small share of total trade.

Key challenges facing industry, investors, and SMEs across the region include:

- Inadequate infrastructure and logistics connectivity
- Complex and non-harmonized customs and regulatory procedures
- High cost of doing business and lengthy clearance times

- Limited access to finance, technology, and skilled labor
- Policy uncertainty and weak institutional coordination
- Low levels of value addition, innovation, and industrial diversification

These constraints disproportionately affect SMEs, which often lack the resources to absorb regulatory and transaction costs, while also discouraging foreign direct investment that relies on efficient import–export and supply-chain systems.

2. UNTAPPED POTENTIAL AND STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

The ECO region is endowed with substantial economic assets, including abundant natural resources, a large and youthful population, and a highly strategic geographic location linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. ECO countries collectively account for a significant share of global energy resources, possess strong agricultural bases, and host established industrial clusters—ranging from textiles and manufacturing to energy, petrochemicals, and minerals.

Despite these advantages, a large portion of the region’s investment and industrial potential remains underutilized due to gaps in infrastructure, technology adoption, innovation ecosystems, and cross-border collaboration. Addressing these gaps presents a significant opportunity to transform the ECO region into a competitive production and investment hub.

3. STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the current era of globalization and technological transformation, ECO member states need to pursue a forward-looking industrial and investment strategy that emphasizes:

Industrial upgrading and diversification, including a gradual shift from low-value, resource-based and traditional industries toward higher-value manufacturing, modern services, and technology-driven sectors

SME development and integration into regional and global value chains through access to finance, skills, technology, and markets

Investment facilitation and protection, supported by transparent, predictable, and investor-friendly policies

Labour-intensive and productivity-enhancing sectors, capable of generating employment while improving competitiveness and wages

Regional complementarities, leveraging differences in resource endowments, capabilities, and market strengths among ECO countries

4. ROLE OF ECO AND ECO-CCI

ECO has taken important initiatives to promote industrial cooperation and investment, including the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI). However, the full potential of these frameworks has yet to be realized due to delays in ratification and implementation. ECO-CCI, as the representative body of the private sector, has a critical role to play in advocating for reforms, mobilizing business participation, and bridging gaps between governments and investors.

- Over recent years, ECO-CCI has pursued several initiatives, including:
- Advocacy for ratification and implementation of APPI
- Promotion of investment opportunities through specialized committee meetings
- Engagement with ECO institutions and financial bodies to encourage joint ventures
- Organization of sector-focused forums and consortium meetings
- Planning of cross-regional business forums (ECO-ASEAN, ECO-SAARC, ECO-D-8) to facilitate technology transfer, market access, and investment cooperation

To accelerate industrial growth and investment flows in the ECO region, the following actions are recommended:

- a) Expedite ratification and implementation of regional investment agreements
- b) Improve regulatory harmonization and trade facilitation measures
- c) Strengthen SME support frameworks at national and regional levels
- d) Promote joint ventures, cross-border industrial clusters, and value chains
- e) Enhance coordination among ECO institutions, national chambers, and investment promotion agencies
- f) Foster dialogue between policymakers and the private sector through structured platforms

5. RECOMMENDATION

ECO CCI may recommend that Member States accord high priority to industry, investment, and SME promotion as core pillars of regional cooperation, and mandate relevant stakeholders to accelerate implementation of agreed frameworks, strengthen private-sector engagement, and develop coordinated strategies to unlock the region's vast economic potential

Agenda No. 4 (d)

WORKING PAPER

**AGENDA ITEM: STRENGTHENING TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY
IN THE ECO REGION**

Efficient transportation and regional connectivity are fundamental to economic growth, trade facilitation, and regional integration. Improved connectivity reduces trade costs, enhances supply chains, attracts foreign direct investment, and contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity. For regional groupings such as ECO, transportation infrastructure is a critical enabler of economic corridors, value chains, and people-to-people linkages.

The ECO region possesses significant strategic importance, linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. However, inadequate transport infrastructure, limited multimodal connectivity, and procedural bottlenecks have constrained the region's trade potential and economic integration.

Seven out of ten ECO Member States are landlocked, making efficient transit and transport corridors essential for their access to regional and global markets. Despite geographical proximity and economic complementarities, high logistics costs, fragmented transport systems, and non-harmonized transit procedures continue to limit intra-regional trade.

Enhanced transport connectivity—covering rail, road, air, and maritime links, supported by streamlined customs and transit procedures—can significantly reduce economic distance, improve competitiveness, and strengthen regional value chains. Regional initiatives such as the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), ECO container train services, and emerging economic corridors provide a strong foundation but require renewed political and institutional commitment.

KEY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

1. Revival of ECO Rail Connectivity

The Istanbul–Tehran–Islamabad (ITI) / ECO Container Train remains a strategic project for low-cost, reliable freight movement linking ECO countries

with Europe and South Asia. Its revival can significantly enhance trade flows, transit cargo, and regional integration.

2. Implementation of ECO TTFA

Full and effective implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement is essential to harmonize transit regulations, reduce delays, improve border efficiency, and ensure safe and secure movement of goods and passengers.

3. Multimodal and Corridor-Based Connectivity

Strengthening road, rail, port, and air connectivity—particularly linking Central Asia to seaports—will enhance market access for landlocked countries and support regional trade diversification.

4. Trade Facilitation and Digitalization

Simplification of customs procedures, adoption of international conventions (such as TIR), and use of digital systems can substantially reduce transit time and costs.

5. Regional Infrastructure Synergies

Leveraging regional connectivity initiatives, including economic corridors and cross-border transport agreements, can promote investment, joint ventures, and shared infrastructure development.

EXPECTATIONS

- Reduced transport and logistics costs across the ECO region
- Increased intra-regional trade and transit traffic
- Improved connectivity for landlocked member states
- Strengthened regional value chains and supply networks
- Enhanced attractiveness of the ECO region for investment and trade

RECOMMENDATION

ECO CCI may recommend that Member States prioritize transportation and connectivity as a core area of regional cooperation, accelerate implementation of existing ECO transport agreements, revive key rail and transit projects, and

strengthen collaboration between governments, transport authorities, and the private sector.

Agenda No. 4 (e)

WORKING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM: PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE ECO REGION

Tourism is a rapidly growing global industry, contributing nearly 9.8% to world GDP and 6% to global exports. It plays a critical role in economic growth, job creation, poverty alleviation, and cultural exchange. The ECO region, with its rich natural, historical, cultural, and religious heritage, holds significant potential for tourism development. Despite this, the region's share in global tourism remains low, with around 56 million visitors (4.8% of world tourists) annually, most of whom visit Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan.

Tourism in ECO countries can serve as a catalyst for intra-regional trade, investment, and employment, while fostering people-to-people connections and cultural understanding. Emerging sectors such as eco-tourism, health tourism, religious tourism, and education tourism offer additional opportunities for sustainable economic development.

The ECO region is uniquely positioned to attract both intra-regional and international tourists due to its geographic diversity, historical significance, and cultural richness. Enhanced tourism can:

- Strengthen regional economic integration and intra-ECO trade
- Generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Improve connectivity, infrastructure, and investment in service industries
- Promote cultural exchange and regional branding
- Enable sharing of knowledge and best practices among member states

1. PROPOSAL

To fully realize the tourism potential of the ECO region, the following measures are proposed:

- Facilitate air, rail, and road connectivity among member countries
- Implement ECO Visa Exemption Sticker and ECO White Card schemes for business travelers and tourists
- Organize workshops, conferences, and exhibitions, including health tourism and eco-tourism events
- Develop and publish updated ECO Tourism Guidebooks highlighting attractions in all member states
- Engage airlines to offer discounted travel rates for ECO tourists and business delegations
- Promote collaboration among ECO-CCI, national chambers, and ECO Secretariat for coordinated tourism strategies

2. EXPECTATION

- Increased tourist inflow within and into the ECO region
- Expansion of intra-regional trade and investment
- Growth of service industries and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Strengthened regional cultural ties and people-to-people interaction
- Improved global visibility of ECO as a tourism destination

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

ECO CCI may request member states to support initiatives for tourism promotion, facilitate connectivity and visa procedures, and actively participate in ECO tourism events, guidebook development, and strategic collaborations.

Agenda No. 4 (c)

WORKING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM: WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL (WEC)

Women's entrepreneurship is increasingly recognized as a vital driver of economic growth, employment generation, and social inclusion. Women's participation in economic activities not only strengthens human resource development but also plays a critical role in empowering women and reducing socio-economic inequalities. Women entrepreneurs contribute significantly by creating jobs, introducing innovation, and addressing business, management, and market challenges.

Despite this contribution, women entrepreneurs remain underrepresented across the ECO region and continue to face structural and gender-based barriers. These include limited access to finance, restrictive legal and cultural practices, inadequate exposure to technology and markets, and limited mobility and networking opportunities. Experience across countries confirms that women's engagement in business improves their economic standing, social status, and contribution to national development.

Recognizing women's entrepreneurship as an untapped source of growth, the Women Entrepreneur Council (WEC) of ECO-CCI was established in July 2008. The Council aims to enhance the skills and capacities of women entrepreneurs in ECO Member States, promote intra-regional collaboration, and support increased trade and investment within the ECO region.

According to World Bank data, women account for nearly one-third of global entrepreneurs, predominantly within the SME sector. However, participation levels across ECO countries vary widely. Women's business ownership ranges from over 25% in countries such as Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, to significantly lower levels in Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan. Similarly, access to financial accounts among women differs substantially across the region, highlighting the need for targeted policy interventions.

Since its inception, the founding member national chambers of ECO-CCI have actively supported WEC initiatives to strengthen women's entrepreneurial

capabilities. These efforts aim to maximize regional economic potential, promote inclusive growth, generate employment, and contribute to poverty reduction. Research consistently identifies limited technical skills, business knowledge, and market access as key challenges for women entrepreneurs—areas that remain central to the Council’s mandate.

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL

- Regular meetings held alongside ECO-CCI statutory meetings to formulate strategies and initiatives
- Organization of workshops, seminars, exhibitions, and study visits focused on women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship development
- Engagement with the ECO Secretariat to explore financial and institutional support for women-focused initiatives
- Dedicated sessions on women’s entrepreneurial potential, with participation from women entrepreneurs across ECO Member States
- Establishment of a Women Entrepreneurs Web Portal to facilitate networking, visibility, and market access
- Sharing of country experiences and success stories, particularly from Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey

The Women Entrepreneur Council continues to serve as a vital platform for promoting inclusive economic growth and strengthening the role of women entrepreneurs within the ECO region.

Agenda No. 6 (a)

WORKING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM: PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING AN ECO EXHIBITION

1- BACKGROUND

Fairs and exhibitions have become one of the most effective modern tools for promoting bilateral and multilateral trade. They provide a dynamic platform for countries to showcase their products, services, technologies, and investment opportunities. Globally, leading economies such as China, Germany, Singapore, and several other developed nations have successfully leveraged international exhibitions to accelerate their economic growth, diversify exports, attract foreign investment, and establish long-term commercial partnerships.

2- RATIONALE

For the ECO region, which enjoys considerable geographic, economic, and cultural connectivity, a dedicated ECO Exhibition can play a crucial role in:

- Enhancing intra-regional trade
- Promoting joint ventures and investment
- Facilitating B2B and B2G networking
- Showcasing industrial, agricultural, technological, and service-sector strengths of member countries
- Supporting SMEs in accessing regional markets
- Strengthening the global visibility and branding of the ECO Community

3- PROPOSAL

It is proposed that ECO CCI may take the lead in organizing an annual (or biennial) ECO Exhibition, to be hosted on a rotational basis by member states. The exhibition may cover key sectors of mutual interest such as:

- Trade and commerce

- Industry and manufacturing
- Agriculture and food processing
- Transport and logistics
- Tourism and culture
- Technology and innovation

The event may also include seminars, B2B meetings, start-up showcases, investment forums, and country-specific pavilions.

4- EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The proposed ECO Exhibition is expected to:

- Increase trade flows among ECO member countries
- Promote regional value chains
- Generate investment and industrial collaboration
- Support export diversification
- Strengthen people-to-people and business-to-business linkages
- Enhance the visibility of the ECO region in global markets

5- RECOMMENDATION

ECO CCI may approve, in principle, the concept of holding an ECO Exhibition and constitute a working group to finalize the framework, host country selection, dates, budget, and operational modalities.

Agenda No. 6 (c)

WORKING PAPER

**AGENDA ITEM: REVIVAL AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF
THE ECO TRAIN PROJECT**

1- BACKGROUND

The ECO Train Project was conceptualized nearly 8–10 years ago as a strategic initiative to strengthen regional connectivity, reduce transportation costs, and promote people-to-people interaction among ECO Member States. Despite significant potential, the project could not be operationalized due to various logistical, technical, and administrative challenges faced by participating countries.

With renewed focus on regional integration, the revival of this project is timely and aligns with ECO's long-term objectives of improving trade facilitation, transit connectivity, and economic cooperation.

2- RATIONALE

Efficient and affordable transport links are essential for boosting regional trade and investment. Currently, business travel and cargo movement among ECO countries is largely dependent on air transport or lengthy road routes, both of which increase costs and reduce competitiveness.

- Launching the ECO Train service — covering both cargo and passenger segments — will:
- Reduce travel and logistics expenses significantly
- Provide an economical and reliable alternative transport route
- Facilitate smoother movement of goods across borders
- Promote tourism and business visits
- Support supply-chain development and regional value chains
- Enhance integration of ECO markets

3- PROPOSAL

It is proposed that ECO Member States consider the revival and phased implementation of the ECO Train Project, with the following key components:

1- Cargo Train Service:

Priority launch to support trade flow

Dedicated cargo corridors with harmonized customs and transit procedures

Regular schedules and predictable transit times

2- PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE:

Launch alongside or after cargo operations

Affordable travel option for business delegations, tourists, and professionals

Enhanced people-to-people connectivity and cultural exchange

3-Technical & Policy Coordination:

Establishment of a joint working group of transport ministries, rail authorities, and ECO CCI

Harmonization of customs, visa, transit, and security protocols

Exploration of public-private partnership (PPP) and investment models

4- EXPECTED BENEFITS

The revival of the ECO Train Project will:

- Contribute to significant expansion of intra-regional trade
- Reduce the cost and time of business visits and trade-related travel
- Strengthen logistical integration across ECO corridors
- Improve market access for exporters, especially SMEs
- Facilitate tourism, cultural exchange, and academic mobility
- Reinforce the ECO region as a connected and competitive economic bloc

5- RECOMMENDATION

ECO CCI may recommend that Member States revive the ECO Train Project on priority and initiate technical consultations to finalize routes, schedules, operational frameworks, and implementation timelines.

Agenda No. 6 (b)

WORKING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM: ECO VISA STICKER INITIATIVE

1- BACKGROUND

Facilitating mobility of the business community is essential for strengthening regional economic cooperation. One of the most effective mechanisms for this purpose is a visa sticker system, which enables designated businesspersons to travel easily across member countries. A similar facility was successfully implemented within SAARC, where eligible members of the business community receive long-term, multiple-entry visa stickers, significantly improving regional trade engagement.

2- RATIONALE

The ECO region possesses immense potential for intra-regional trade, investment, and joint ventures. However, one of the key obstacles faced by the private sector is the lengthy and often cumbersome visa process. Business leaders frequently spend substantial time visiting embassies, fulfilling documentation requirements, and waiting for visa issuance — time that could instead be devoted to productive economic activity.

To overcome these barriers and enhance business-to-business and business-to-government interactions, the ECO Visa Sticker Initiative is proposed.

3- PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the ECO Member States introduce a special ECO Visa Sticker to be issued to:

- Members of the Executive Committee (EC) and General Body (GB) of ECO CCI
- EC members of national chambers who are part of the ECO CCI framework

- Any other category approved mutually by ECO Member States

The visa sticker would allow:

- Multiple entries
- Long-term validity (e.g., 1–3 years)
- Visa-on-passport without additional documentation, once approved
- Simplified and fast-track processing

4- EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Implementation of the ECO Visa Sticker Initiative will:
- Intensify business interaction among ECO Member States
- Encourage frequent visits for trade negotiations, exhibitions, B2B meetings, and investment exploration
- Remove bureaucratic hurdles and reduce time wasted in embassy procedures
- Enhance confidence and connectivity within the regional business community
- Promote cross-border partnerships, joint ventures, and export growth
- Strengthen the overall role of ECO CCI as a facilitator of regional economic integration

5- RECOMMENDATION

ECO CCI may endorse the introduction of the ECO Visa Sticker Initiative and request ECO Member States to initiate necessary procedures for its adoption. A joint working group may be formed to finalize eligibility criteria, security protocols, and implementation modalities.