



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO)

ANTALYA DECLARATION

For Tourism Cooperation in ECO Region

23 October, 2009

Keeping in view the Article II of İzmir Treaty, relevant parts of Quetta Action Plan, and other ECO documents including ECO Vision 2015.

Reiterating the articles of Tehran Declaration for tourism cooperation among ECO member states which have been adopted by the Ministerial Meetings on Tourism in Tehran in October 2008.

Bearing in mind the directives of ECO Plan of Action on Tourism adopted by the First ECO Ministers Meeting on Tourism in Tehran in October 2008.

Bearing in mind the importance of tourism in the economic and social development of the ECO region and strong desire of ECO Member States for attaining more share of global tourism markets in order to cope with the challenges of global competition,

Acknowledging the important role of tourism on the mutual understanding, promotion of peace and security, cultural and economic cooperation among the member states;

Emphasizing the active role of the private sector in tourism industry and the need to encourage private sector cooperation in tourism sector further,

Considering the increasing need for investment and financing of the ECO tourism projects/ program and **welcoming** the operationalization of the ECO Trade and Development Bank.

We the Ministers of Tourism and Heads of Delegation to the Second ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held on 23 October 2009, in Antalya:

- **Underline** the compelling need of tourism industry cooperation among the ECO member states for their economic development and **express** our firm belief that the ECO Regional Tourism Cooperation will contribute to the prosperity and development of our countries and our people.

- **Welcome** the establishment of ECO Tourism Promotion Fund as an effective instrument in enhancing regional cooperation in the field of tourism and **recommend** the prompt establishment of the Fund and **thank** the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey to contribute to the Fund whenever it is established and call on other member states to also contribute to the Fund.
- **Appreciate** the efforts of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), with the support of the ECO Secretariat, to prepare the ECO Tourism Guidebook and **welcome** the first draft printing of the Guide Book.
- **Thank** the member states who contributed to the Guidebook and **call on** member states to convey their final comments and revisions regarding the Guidebook to ECO Secretariat and ECI within 3 months for final printing of the Guidebook and in case of non-compliance, it would be construed that their information which appears on the Draft Guidebook is final and have their approval accordingly for final publication and also **thank** the Islamic Republic of Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization for its readiness to print the ECO Tourism Guidebook, when finalized.
- **Emphasize** the need to continue holding experts meetings/workshops or training programs to promote tourism industry and increase public awareness in the region.
- **Request** the Member states to organize meetings of tour operators and major tourism companies in member states on multilateral or bilateral basis to enhance tourism exchange among Member Countries.
- **Call upon** the Member States to actively participate in various international and regional tourism fairs to promote development of the tourism market.
- **Appreciate** the efforts to develop Transport routes in the Region and emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation in the field of all modes of transportation in order to ensure cheaper and easier travel among ECO Member States.
- **Underline** the importance of enhancing the cooperation among the ECO member states at bilateral and multilateral levels for efficient interaction and exchange of knowledge and experience among experts, investors, and entrepreneurs and **resolve** to consider developing conducive environment and appropriate mechanisms.
- **Consider** the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Establishment of ECO Television Network and launching common news agency and request them to send the details of the proposals at the earliest.
- **Highlight** the importance of the inscription of the Silk Road project in the program of the UNESCO on the intangible cultural heritage and **call on** the member countries to cooperate in this regard especially through their representatives in UNESCO.

- **Agree** to the proposal of ECI for holding tournaments/sports events for ECO Member Countries for promoting friendship and cultural relations and offering of ECO-Cup.
- **Express** thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, especially His Excellency Mr. Ertugrul Gunay, for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to all participants and also **thank** the ECO Secretariat for its contribution to the successful organization of the meeting.