

CHARTER OF THE ECO CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

PREAMBLE

The Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO):

1. **Conscious** of the essential need to address energy security, energy access for productive uses and climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the Member States");
2. **Emphasizing** that, ECO strives for building up the diverse and resilient energy architecture in the region via mainstreaming sustainable energy transition in its overall energy agenda and transformation to clean energy sources;
3. **Realizing** that the urgent transition to low-carbon, highly energy efficient economies is desirable and strategic for the Member States to derive maximum benefits, and will require the establishment of a dedicated regional organization established, governed, operated, and controlled by the Member States, thereby functioning with their interests and goals as its main objective;
4. **Bearing in mind that**, “Transformation to renewable, as well as cleaner and sustainable energy sources” represents the ‘Expected Outcome V.’ of energy sector in “ECO Vision 2025” with the aim to unlock ECO Region’s tremendous cooperation opportunities in renewables and energy efficiency and create an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments;
5. **Having regard to** the decisions of the 23rd, 24th and 25th ECO Council of Ministers, which supported initiatives in mainstreaming clean energy sources in the region;
6. **Having further regard to** the 13th, 14th, 15th ECO Summit conclusions which underpinned the coordination of measures in the field of sustainable growth including, *inter alia*, the use of environmentally friendly, renewable energy and clean energy, the conservation and efficient use of water and energy resources;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I

Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center

“ECO Clean Energy Center” hereinafter referred to as the “Center” is hereby established.

Article II

Objectives

1. The Center shall promote the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and enhance capabilities of national institutions of ECO Member States.
2. The Center shall provide support in relation to sustainable energy related issues and mobilize financial and technical resources to assist the implementation of low carbon project activities in ECO region.

Article III

Functions

1. The Center shall facilitate coordination and cooperation among the relevant institutions of ECO Member States centered on strengthening regional capacities for sustainable energy and energy efficiency.
2. The Center shall develop and implement regional projects and provide technical assistance in the areas related to sustainable energy development.
3. The Center shall provide effective coordination among regional and international institutions with energy and climate change responsibilities; promoting project investments and awareness among key stakeholder groups.
4. The Center shall collect, analyze, store, and disseminate energy statistics and information on RE and EE.
5. The Center shall facilitate the generation of knowledge on key global sustainable energy issues.
6. The Center shall support Contracting Parties in their access to international financial and technical resources; providing on request, assistance to Contracting Parties for public education and awareness campaigns on low carbon energy development nationally and regionally; initiating and coordinating the development of regional research and development and training programmes in RE and EE.

Article IV

Structure of the Center

1. Board of Governors

The Center shall have a Board of Governors consisting of:

The Ministers of Energy or official of the same rank from the Member States, the ECO Secretary General and the Executive Director of the Center;

The Board of Governors shall be the principal policy and decision-making body of the Center, which will also provide strategic guidance to achieve the objectives;

The Board of Governors shall meet annually by rotation in the territories of the Member States. Relevant private sector representatives one from each contracting party, may attend the meeting as observers.

2. Executive Board

The Center shall have an Executive Board consisting of:

- a) Representatives from the Contracting Parties;
- b) ECO Secretary General or his/her representative;
- c) The Executive Director of the Center.

The Executive Board shall implement the decisions taken by the Board of Governors. Primary tasks will cover, *inter-alia*, review the annual work programmes and budget, reports and financial statements of the Centre; initiate or determine, where necessary, projects; encourage the development and elaboration of appropriate integrated strategies; recommend a candidate for the position of Executive Director; appoint and, where

necessary or appropriate, vary the composition of the Technical Committee; propose the designation of institutions and networks as Thematic Hubs. The Board shall be convened in an ordinary meeting twice each year and in extraordinary meetings as often as the Board considers necessary.

Relevant private sector representatives, one from each contracting party, may attend the meeting as observers.

3. THE SECRETARIAT

- a) There shall be a Secretariat of the Center headed by the Executive Director.
- b) The Board of Governors shall appoint the Executive Director and adopt the Staff Regulations setting out the powers and duties of the Executive Director and the staff members.
- c) Appointment to the posts of Secretariat, except for the Executive Director, shall take place by secondment of staffs by the contracting parties.

Executive Director of the Center shall be nominated from amongst eminent technocrats from the contracting parties in the field of sustainable energy development, covering renewables and energy efficiency and appointed by the Board of Governors for term of three years.

Executive Director of the Center shall be responsible for carrying out the general policies and decisions of the Board of Governors and the Executive Board, and for implementation of the approved programs of the Center. The Executive Director is secretary of Board of Governors, who will also chair the Technical Committee. Executive Board shall be chaired by the representative of contracting party holding the chairmanship of the Board of Governors.

4. THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee shall be responsible for delivering technical guidance to Executive Board and advising the Secretariat on the work of the Centre, review and make recommendations on the technical documents, monitor the progress of the Centre. The Technical Committee shall consist of experts and scientists in the field of sustainable energy development, with emphasis to clean energy and energy efficiency. Each Contracting Party shall appoint one representative in the Committee, for a term of three years. Additionally partner organizations and designated private sector representatives, ECO Secretariat, shall be represented in the Committee. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year with the presence of not less than 2/3 of the Members and be chaired by the Executive Director. The Secretariat of Center shall provide support services for the Committee.

Article V **THEMATIC HUBS**

The Centre shall develop and execute its activities through a network of Thematic Hubs, as necessary. Thematic Hubs are institutions or networks that are intended to enable the

Centre to systematically utilize the experiences, structures and arrangements of existing regional and national institutions or entities in order to accelerate the implementation of its core programme of activities.

The functional relationships between the Centre and a Thematic Hub shall be subject to the terms and conditions of a Technical Cooperation Agreement concluded between them. The Thematic Hubs shall be focused on specific solutions in distinct sectors and areas, such as energy, climate change, capacity building and research, investment and finance, and will function as central coordination agencies for the areas identified.

ARTICLE VI

Headquarters

The Center shall have its Headquarters in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.

ARTICLE VII

Relations with ECO Organs

The Center shall submit annual or periodical reports covering a review of the existing activities and future projects of the Center through ECO Secretariat to the ECO Council of Ministers.

The ECO relevant policies shall be considered by the Center in development of its activities and projects.

ARTICLE VI

Relations with Other Organizations

ECO Clean Energy Center as part of Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centers of UNIDO may establish co-operative relationship with other regional or international research institutes and bodies. The nature and extent of such cooperation shall be determined by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE II

Legal Status

The Center shall possess legal personality as an ECO Regional Centre accorded by the legislative authorities of the host country. The Staff of the Center shall enjoy immunities and privileges identical to those of ECO Staff.

ARTICLE VII

Finance

The Center shall have independent budget and funds for its research and administrative purposes which shall consist of:

- a) Contributions made by the Member States;
- b) Donations and endowments;
- c) Other sources, such as incomes through development and implementation of projects.

ARTICLE VIII

Entry into Force

The present Charter shall come into force following the deposit of the third Instrument of Ratification/Approval with the ECO Secretary General.

ARTICLE IX

Regulations

The Center shall formulate its own Financial and Staff regulations, its Rules of Procedure and modalities governing its cooperation with Partner Research Institutes and other regional and international research bodies which shall be approved by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Amendments to this Charter, proposed either by a Member State or by the Executive Director of the Center shall require the approval of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE XI

Official Language

The official Language of the Center shall be English.

Done at Ashgabat on Twenty Seventh of November in Two Thousand Twenty One in one single copy in English, which shall remain deposited with the Secretary General of ECO. Certified copies shall be transmitted by the Secretariat of ECO to all Signatory States.

**FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
AFGHANISTAN:**

**FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN:**

**FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
IRAN:**

**FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN:**

FOR THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC:

**FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
PAKISTAN:**

**FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN:**

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY:

FOR TURKMENISTAN:

**FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN:**
