



**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)**

**Statement by the Secretary General**

**First Meeting of the Heads of the National Civil  
Registration Organizations/Centers**

**(Tehran, 3-4 October 2011)**

**The ECO Secretariat, Tehran**

**First Meeting of the  
Heads of ECO National Organizations/Centers  
of Civil Registration  
(3-4 October 2011, Tehran – Iran)**

**The ECO Secretary General's Statement**

**Your Excellency Mr. Mohammad Najjar,  
Minister for Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Ghashghavi,  
Deputy Foreign Minister of the I.R. Iran**

**Your Excellency Mr. Nazemi Ardakani,  
Deputy Interior Minister and Head of National Organization for Civil  
Registration of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great privilege for me to participate in the First Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Organizations/Centers of Civil Registration. I thank the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran particularly the Iranian National Organization for Civil Registration, for making excellent arrangements for this event and warm hospitality extended to the participants. I am grateful to the Honourable Minister for Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mohammad Najjar, for his personal support and cooperation. The presence of such distinguished delegates from the Member States symbolizes our collective recognition of the importance of the issue.

**Excellencies,**

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an intergovernmental regional organization, established for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States.

Despite its young age, ECO has developed into a thriving regional organization and its international stature is growing. Over the past 20 years the Member States have been collaborating to accelerate the pace of regional development through their common endeavors. Besides shared cultural and historic affinities, they have been able to use the existing infrastructural and business links to further fortify their resolve to transfer their hopes and aspirations into a tangible reality.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Although the priority areas of cooperation of ECO are Trade, Transport and Energy, however, any initiative towards cooperation in other areas is always welcomed by the Organization. Today, by holding this meeting we are initiating a new field of cooperation which is Civil Registration. The initiative would undoubtedly benefit individual Member States and the entire ECO region.

**Excellencies,**

The purpose of civil registration is to create legal documents and data base regarding legal name, gender, family name, father/guardian name, identification mark, date of birth and other related information pertaining to the individual citizen of each country. Under civil registration every citizen has to have a NIC number and this number can be utilized for many activities such as getting driving license, passport, vehicle registration etc. in other words all information relating to the individuals are collected centrally and this data collection provides great help to the planners to plan the economic development strategies and law enforcing agencies to track down the criminals and terrorists. So we can safely say that data registration of people provides a good basis for making right social and economic decisions.

**Excellencies,**

This Meeting will provide opportunity for the distinguished participants to exchange their experience on important issues related to civil registration and associated services. The Meeting will consider the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve the efficiency of collection, compilation, sharing, dissemination, and analysis of data on vital events. Setting up of ECO Civil Registration Authorities Website is another proposal which may be discussed during the Meeting.

**Excellencies,**

At the end, I hope that in todays meeting we will be able to devise some understanding and cooperation in the field of civil registration. This cooperation will not only provide us opportunity to understand the system being operated in our countries but also we will learn from each others experience.

Once again I would like to thank the host authorities for arranging this important meeting and making excellent arrangements for the participants. I wish a complete success to this meeting.

Thanking you.

\*\*\*\*\*