



DRAFT REPORT

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS  
COUNCIL MEETING**

ECO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**March 3, 2018  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**



**Draft Report of the  
Twelfth Women Entrepreneurs Council Meeting of  
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)  
March 3, 2018 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

The twelfth meeting of Women Entrepreneurs Council of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI), hosted by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) was held on March 3, 2018 in Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran. The Presidents/Vice Presidents/ Representatives of the member Chambers as well as representatives from ECO Secretariat and ECO TDB participated in the meeting.

**Agenda Item No – 1: Inauguration of the Meeting**

The Chairwomen of the Women Entrepreneurs Council welcomed the delegates.

**Agenda Item No – 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

The draft agenda of the meeting already circulated to Member Chambers and given below was adopted.

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Drafting Committee
4. Statement by Head of ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council on Women Entrepreneurship in ECO Region
5. Activity Report ECO CCI
6. Remarks by the Heads of Delegations
7. To Up-date the house about web portal of ECO-CCI Women Council by ECO-CCI
8. To discuss the future plan of activities of Women Entrepreneur Council
9. To discuss the problems faced by Women Entrepreneurs
10. Any other Business
11. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting
12. Adoption of the Report
13. Vote of Thanks

**Agenda Item No – 3: Appointment of the Drafting Committee**

A Drafting Committee consisting of the following members was appointed to prepare the draft Report of the Meeting:

1. Mr. Mahdi Razzaghshoar (Iran)
2. Ms. Shahla Ali Hasan (Turkey)
3. Mr .Aneeq Ali Malik (Pakistan)
4. Ms Amber Fatima (ECO-CCI)

**Agenda Item No – 4: Statement by Chairperson of ECO CCI women Entrepreneurs Council on Women Entrepreneurship in ECO Region.**

Chairperson of the ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council delivered her presentation on the Women Entrepreneurship in ECO Region (Annexed at 1)

**Agenda Item No – 5: Activity Report by ECO CCI**

The Secretary General ECO CCI delivered an activity report of Women Entrepreneurs Council since the last meeting (Annexed at 2).

**Agenda Item No – 6: Remarks by the Heads of Delegations**

The Turkish delegation stressed upon the importance of the participation of women in the economy of today's world for development and growth. The head of the delegation also stated that women face more obstacles in their business than their male counterparts and underlined the importance of overcoming those obstacles. The Turkish delegation stated that TOBB has prioritised the enhancement of the role of women in the economy and their success to increase their rate of the contribution to the welfare of the society. They added that they have adopted the economic approach and actively involving and empowering women in education, employment and industrial political projects.

The Pakistani delegates stated that women empowerment bring prosperity. Woman are working in all fields of Pakistan and are supported by the government of Pakistan. In Pakistan, there are 11 chambers which are facilitating women entrepreneurs. There is a lot of potential in Women related activities and she suggested the following

- a. Operation of Web portal
- b. Exchange of delegates in members nations
- c. holding of exhibitions
- d. frequent meeting through multimedia

The Kyrgyz delegates stated that their country is progressing and need strong linkage with the women of other countries women. She also invited the other countries to participate in exhibitions of Kyrgyz Republic.

Afghanistan stated that women in Afghanistan are facing several problem and discrimination in their activities. Their Chambers has planned many activities for enhancing women entrepreneurship in Afghanistan. The GIZ is also contributing in the activities of Women entrepreneurs.

Uzbekistan stated that they are participating first time and has taken various steps for women entrepreneurship. In their nation, there are equal opportunities for women to participate in the activities. Their government has announced special incentives for handicraft promotion and they suggested strong linkage among the women of all countries.

Turkmenistan also thanked for organizing this meeting.

**Agenda Item No-7: To Up-date the house about web portal of ECO-CCI Women Council by ECO-CCI**

ECO-CCI and FPCCI also updated the about the function and operation of web portal. FPCCI representative informed the house that ECO-CCI has created a domain based portal i.e. [www.eco-cci.org](http://www.eco-cci.org) which has been linked with the FPCCI website which include women data base form as well as the information of ECO-CCI and other useful reports.

The Secretary General ECO-CCI requested the house to market this portal in their respective countries to drive maximum benefits from this web portal.

**Agenda Item No-8: To discuss the future plan of activities of Women Entrepreneur Council**

On the query of Iran Chamber, the TOBB have expressed their intention to organize the women exhibition in Turkey in last quarter of 2018, if approved and willing to attend by the member states.

In order to organize the above exhibition, a committee was formed consists of members from founding members countries to discuss the technical issues.

1. Mrs. Syeda Moghimi (Iran)
2. Ms. Shehla (Turkey)
3. Mrs. NAheed Masud (Pakistan)

The ECO-CCI suggested that for exhibition there should be 10 members from each country and stall will be allocated freely.

Turkey agreed to provide minimum space free of cost while participation will be on self finance basis.

The Secretary General ECO-CCI offered to organize the seminar for women on the sideline of the next meeting.

**Agenda item No-9: To discuss the problems faced by Women Entrepreneurs**

The chairperson informed that the budget/ capital is the crucial problem and without approved budget the economic activities cannot be enhanced and women entrepreneurship activities.

The ECO Secretariat appreciated the efforts of women entrepreneur council and offered to add the women portal link on the ECO secretariat website to promote women entrepreneurship in the region to play the role in economic and social spheres.

**Agenda Item No -10: Any other Business**

There was no matter to discuss.

**Agenda Item No - 12: Proposals on Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**

The house proposed to leave the date of holding of next Meeting of Women Entrepreneur Council of ECO CCI on the approval of the 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meetings.

**Agenda Item No - 13: Adoption of the Report**

The house adopted the Report of the Twelfth ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council Meeting and decided to present to the 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meetings for approval.

**Agenda Item No - 14: Vote of Thanks**

The participating Heads of delegations/members offered their thanks to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for the excellent arrangements made to hold this important meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The participants also appreciated the contribution of the ECO-CCI Secretariat for providing the necessary assistance and support.

## **Annex I**

### **Report by Secretary General ECO-CCI on Activities of Women Entrepreneur Council in Meeting on March 3, 2018 at Tehran, Iran**

The founder member national chambers of ECO-CCI since the inception of Women Entrepreneur Council of ECO-CCI in July 2008 have been endeavors to enhance the skills of women entrepreneurs of ECO nations so that trade and economic activities could be maximized to the extent of existing potential of ECO region and resultantly it will lead to acceleration in economic development and reduction of un-employment and poverty alleviation in the region.

On the sideline of last meeting, TOBB organized a workshop on capacity enhancement of women entrepreneurs. Moreover, ECO-CCI has created Women portal which will also help in enhancing the market access and identifying new market and business partners. The Women entrepreneurs of ECO Region will have easy access to each other through this web-portal and i am of the firm believe that this web-portal will further intensify the networking amongst the women entrepreneurs

Across the globe, the most chronic problems identified by researchers are women's lack of technical skills and knowledge about business and market and difficulties in acquiring entrepreneurial skills. I would say that the development of opportunities for women is imperative, not only for reasons of equity but also because it makes economic sense. Half of the ECO region's population cannot be ignored: women can make an important contribution in development and economic growth of a nation. However, there is a need to encourage and develop women entrepreneurs for accelerated development and increase in the industrial activities to alleviate poverty.