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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri,
ECO Secretary General
at the
Resumed High-level Segment of the Twenty-seventh Session of
Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel immensely privileged to represent the Economic Cooperation Organization as a region which is inhabited by more than half a billion people, spanning over 8 million square kilometers through West, Central and South Asian countries, in this key global conference which is rightly aimed to address and consider one of the most challenging issues of the era.

Increasing number of extreme weather events like recent examples of floods, droughts and sand and dust storms in the ECO region which regrettably affect the poorest the hardest, making the impact of climate change increasingly apparent and felt by countries and communities in the region.

Currently countries in our region recognize the significance of transition to a low-carbon and resilient development pathway. The big question is how to do such transition, while meeting urgent development needs and how to reconcile our economic imperative with our environmental one, especially in an era of COVID-19 recovery?

In order to tackle pressing environmental challenges, especially the climate crisis, we need to pay further attention to the capacity constraints of the developing countries and substantially enhance multilateral cooperation for addressing their urgent need to access to adequate climate finance, capacity building, technology and know-how. A change can only come about when we ensure that the differences in capacity among countries are well acknowledged and addressed. While emphasizing the importance of boosting mitigation and adaptation efforts as global responsibilities, we need to emphasize that delivery of the promised climate finance is of great importance to drive transformative action on adaptation and mitigation. Such mobilization of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts and achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation.

In such a context, ECO underscores the necessity of enhanced and proportionate means of implementation and refraining from creating any additional burden for developing country Parties, taking into account the different and unique national and regional circumstances. We need to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced support for developing country Parties, and strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer.

While reiterating commitment of the ECO region to Paris Agreement, it should be really noted that the activities in the region are to a great extent tied to proportionate means of implementation. What we need is not only a green, but also a just transition that leaves nobody behind. We need to keep in mind that if the green transition doesn't work for all, in the end it will work for none. We need to make sure that all countries benefit from such transition and avoid making extra burden for those who can least afford it.

Finally, I would like to underscore the importance of further exploring opportunities of regional and sub-regional organizations and platforms like ECO to strengthen collaboration for concrete actions through developing regional roadmaps and priority actions. Taking into consideration the Paris Agreement great emphasis on issues like technology transfer and development, climate change education, public awareness and participation and climate-related capacity-building for developing countries, these organizations, if empowered, would be able to act as a hub for coordination and enhancement of support in these areas and ensuring that the provided support would be tailored to the specific circumstances of regions and sub-regions. The ECO Secretariat while inviting the global development community to strengthen project preparation activities to increase the pipeline of investable projects in our region is prepared for facilitating cooperation among the member states, and with other national governments, regional and international organizations to enhance the global climate agenda and resilience in the region.

Thank you for your attention!