

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**31 January 2025**

### **ETDB Hosts ECO Secretary General at Its Headquarters**

The President of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB), Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan, hosted the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Dr. Asad M. Khan, at the Bank's headquarters in Istanbul on 30 January 2025. The meeting was attended by the ETDB's Vice President (Credits), Mr. Ahmet Tural, and other senior officials, providing an opportunity for productive discussions on key areas of cooperation between the Bank and ECO.

Discussions focused on expanding ETDB's membership to include other ECO Member States, enhancing financing opportunities for regional trade, connectivity, and infrastructure



development, as well as the Bank's role in providing technical assistance to ECO's projects. The parties also addressed the importance of increasing ETDB's capital base to further strengthen its capacity to support the economic development of the ECO region.

The President of ETDB emphasized the Bank's commitment to promoting regional economic integration and called for increased collaboration between ETDB and ECO in encouraging Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to join the Bank. The meeting also underscored the importance of joint efforts in identifying and financing strategic projects that would enhance regional connectivity and trade.

Additionally, discussions highlighted the Bank's ongoing technical assistance initiatives and the need for continued support in this area to enhance regional economic cooperation. The participants also exchanged views on the importance of securing additional capital resources to enable the Bank to meet the growing needs of the ECO region. Dr. Khan reaffirmed ECO's support for the Bank's capital increase, recognizing its critical role in expanding financing opportunities for sustainable development in the region.



Both parties reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening cooperation and agreed to continue working closely to advance economic development and integration among ECO Member States.