



Annex III to BS/ICTM/R(2006)1

**JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS  
IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES  
AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

We, Ministers in Charge of Information Technologies and Communications of the Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (hereinafter BSEC),

*for the purpose of*

joining efforts and working out a coordinated position on the development of the information communication technologies (hereinafter ICT) sector

*in view of*

the results of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) held in two phases in 2003 and 2005 in Geneva and Tunisia and on the eve of the forthcoming Inaugural Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum to be held in Athens

*hereby declare that*

building the information society on the basis of ICT development in our Countries

- is of priority importance for social and economic development of BSEC Member States,
- is advancing with the full scale participation and collaboration of all the parties concerned (public authorities, business circles, non-governmental organizations and the population) on the basis of mutual trust and cooperation.

Priority objectives of building the information society in our countries are as follows:

- developing of secure information communication environment as a basis of information society in the BSEC Member States;
- bridging the “digital divide” to ensure ubiquitous, universal, equitable and affordable access to infrastructure and ICT services;
- developing socially oriented ICT applications such as e-learning, e-health, e-employment, e-government, e-business, etc;
- improving and harmonizing the regulatory and legal framework at the international and national levels, including that in the field of open and fair competition in the ICT sphere;
- increasing of trust and security level while using ICT;
- speeding up the ICT development including perspective academic studies, research and developments;

- creating organizational, legal and technological conditions for trans-border exchange of electronic legal documents;
- supporting small and medium businesses in the ICT field.

We have had an extensive exchange of views on the issues of implementing the WSIS decisions and cooperation prospects in the Black Sea region and

*consider it necessary to*

- promote international cooperation on the basis of development and implementation of joint programs and projects and raising investments for the ICT sector;
- continue cooperation with various international organizations engaged in development and introduction of information and communication technologies including the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union, the European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications and the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communication as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner;
- develop a system of common approaches towards application of information technologies in control over movement of individuals, goods and means of transportation across borders of the BSEC Member States, environmental monitoring and navigation systems;
- carry on work aimed at improving the system of indicators characterizing ICT development in the BSEC Member States;
- develop fruitful cooperation in the sphere of telemedicine and support the BSEC appeal to international financial organizations for full-scale implementation of the projects;
- take note of the positive effect of cooperation between countries in practical implementation of concrete projects of ICT use in particular in such an important area as using telemedicine know-how to fight epidemics of socially dangerous diseases, eliminating medical consequences of emergency situations.

We agree to continue our fruitful cooperation in the aforesaid spheres.

This Declaration is adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Information Technologies and Communications of the BSEC Member States on 17 October 2006, in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

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