



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 19 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 19 November 2013.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhayil VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Republic of Serbia  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey

4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

5. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

6. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, and Declarations and Joint Statements adopted by the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology.

7. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue and expressed the willingness to proceed more actively in order to secure the necessary dynamics in the implementation of those important BSEC documents.

#### **THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP” – CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS**

8. The Working Group discussed the ways and means for the implementation of the priorities contained in “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”.

9. The Working Group invited the Republic of Turkey, the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, to elaborate a questionnaire on developing a registry of national innovation related structures, to be circulated among the BSEC Member States by 31 December 2013. The Member States are invited to submit proposals on the other priorities of the Economic Agenda.

10. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS, and decided to forward it to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials. The Implementation Report is attached as **Annex III**.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY- CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS**

11. The Working Group discussed and approved the Revised Draft Paper for raising visibility of cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, presented by the BSEC PERMIS, as a concrete contribution to the implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy. The Paper is attached as **Annex IV**.

#### **REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND BSEC ACTION PLAN (2010-2014) AND PREPARATIONS FOR ELABORATION OF A THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)**

12. The Working Group invited the Country-Coordinator, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, to prepare evaluation report on the implementation of the second BSEC Action Plan on Science and Technology (2010-2014) with a view to elaborating a new Draft Action Plan for 2014-2018, well in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group. In this regard, the Member States are invited to officially communicate their comments and observations by 31 December 2013.

13. The Working Group emphasized the importance of organizing a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States and a joint BSEC-EU event on Science and Technology in 2014.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)**

14. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund and the decision by the PDF Steering Committee to temporarily postpone submission of the project applications.

15. The Working Group took note of the information delivered by the representative of the Republic of Armenia on the Mid-term report and the progress achieved on the project “Experimental Deployment of an Integrated Grid and Cloud Enabled Environment in BSEC Countries on the Base of g-Eclipse”.

## **MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA**

16. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the latest developments within the Memorandum of Intent (MoI).

17. The Working Group took note of the proposals submitted by the Republic of Moldova regarding the implementation of the MoI between BSEC-USA and invited the Republic of Moldova to present a concept paper on the proposals well in advance of its next meeting. The proposals of Moldova are attached as **Annex V**.

18. The representative of the United States of America reiterated the commitment of his country to foster cooperation in science and technology with BSEC and expressed the readiness to consider concrete suggestions and proposals by the BSEC Member States on the implementation of the MoI.

19. The Member States are invited to present concrete proposals regarding the implementation of the MoI for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

## **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OVERALL EVALUATION, CONCRETE PROJECT PROPOSALS)**

20. The Working Group reiterated great importance attached to the issue of the “Cooperation between BSEC and UN, EU as well as other international organizations” as a permanent item in its agenda.

21. The Working Group reiterated importance of organizing a joint BSEC-EU international event/conference on science and technology with the participation of experts, scientists and policy makers, possibly in 2014. In this regard, the Member States and the European Commission are invited to submit their vision and relevant proposals towards this end.

22. In compliance with the instruction of the Committee of Senior Officials (Odessa, 19-20 June 2013), the Working Group took into account the information provided by the EU representative in the Letter dated 30 May 2013. The Letter which was circulated to the Member States by BSEC PERMIS Note No. BS/INFO.2013.0369 dated 11 June 2013, is attached as **Annex VI**.

23. The Member States were invited to explore the possible ways and means of cooperation on science and technology between the BSEC and the UNESCO and make relevant proposals to be discussed at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

## **COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BSEC AND MEMBER STATES**

24. The Working Group discussed the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States, and agreed, in parallel with the official correspondence, to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and the focal points assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

25. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

26. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.

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