



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

23 November 2021

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

Online, 23 November 2021

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held online 23 November 2021.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Özge İMAMOĞLU, Head of International Organizations Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Republic of North Macedonia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. A representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as a BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran also participated in the Meeting as BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
6. A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (UN FAO) attended the Meeting as a Guest.
7. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
8. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

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AGENDA ITEM 2: CONSIDERATION OF ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP

8. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Action Plan presented by the Republic of Turkey as the Country-coordinator of the Working Group as a road map of activities in the field of agriculture for the next two years.

The Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

9. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit held in New York on 23 September 2021 which initiated a series of actions and strategies on sustainable and equitable food systems that will contribute to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN Agenda 2030.

10. The delegations of the Republic of Turkey and of the Russian Federation informed the participants on their national activities following the UN Food Systems Summit in their countries, which are incorporated and consolidated into the national pathways aimed at practical implementation of the provisions of the UN Food Systems Summit.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSION ON THE OUTPUTS OF REGIONAL DIALOGUES WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR BSEC AND ECO

11. The Working Group took note of the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) which was held online on 18 October 2021 for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) under the UN Resident Coordinator Request to access Financial Resources to Support Member State-led Food Systems Summit Dialogues.

12. It was mentioned that the Workshop was attended by the representatives of BSEC and ECO countries, the national consultants on SFS, representatives of UN Office in Turkey, FAO Sub-regional Office for Turkey and Central Asia, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey, representatives of PERMIS and ECO Secretariats and other partners, in total 84 participants.

13. The participants further mentioned that the Workshop was a post-UN Food Systems Summit action aimed at accelerating the process of transforming and improving the food systems into a sustainable structure in the BSEC region.

14. The Working Group stressed the importance of further cooperation at the regional level, including by organizing similar events for the countries of the region.

15. The Working Group expressed the gratitude to the UN Turkey Office, FAO Sub-regional Office for Turkey and Central Asia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey for organizing the Workshop.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT “BSEC REGIONAL COOPERATION CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS”

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16. The representatives of the FAO Sub-regional office for Turkey and Central Asia made a presentation on the state of affairs with the implementation of the project “*Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

17. As the beneficiaries of the project, the participants mentioned the importance of this project which will contribute to more sustainable and inclusive growth in the countries of the region and will create awareness among the BSEC Member States on sustainable food systems and strengthen their collaboration and effective networking in the region.

18. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey, as the donor country, and to the FAO Sub-regional office for Turkey and Central Asia, as the implementation agency, for the financing and implementation of the project.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its interaction with the other organizations, in particular with FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REC) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

20. In particular, BSEC PERMIS informed on its participation in the meetings and events organized by the two entities during 2020 and 2021; 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (online, 2-4 November 2020), GFCM High-level online meeting: *A new vision for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea* (9 July 2021) and GFCM presentation on *State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries 2020* (online, 14 December 2020).

21. The participants encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to continue proactively exploring the practical means of enhancing its close cooperation with regional and international organizations in the BSEC Region.

22. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed the meeting on the *Armenian Vitis database* project, which is being implemented in collaboration with FAO, and stressed that similar projects could be replicated across the BSEC Region. The information about the project is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. No issues have been considered under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group will be communicated through diplomatic channels in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The participants adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.

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