



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

24 November 2021

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**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICS**

Online, 24 November 2021

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held online, on 24 November 2021.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Yusuf IRMAK, Head of Department, General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey.

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

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:

Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC)

5. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt

6. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) participated in the Meeting as a Guest.

7. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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SESSION I – AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

SESSION I - AGENDA ITEM 3: SHARING EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES ON COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BSEC MS (COUNTRY PRESENTATION)

9. Dr Priyakanta NAYAK, Technical Officer, Health Security in Turkey Project, WHO Country Office, Turkey, informed the representatives of the Member States on COVID-19 Pandemic Latest Situation Update in the Region. His presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

10. Dr. Gülen PEHLİVANTÜRK, on behalf of the Republic of Turkey as the Country Coordinator of this Working Group, informed the participants on the Holistic Pandemic Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Turkey. Her presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

SESSION II – AGENDA ITEM 1: COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH UNDER BSEC - FROM PAST TO FUTURE

11. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants about the state of play of the cooperation in the field of health. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

12. The participants took note of the following Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and proposals:

- a) The draft *Memorandum of Understanding between the World Health Organization and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*.
- b) The *Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the Territories of the BSEC Member States*, and agreed to continue its discussion during the next meeting.
- c) The participants took note that the *Memorandum of Understanding on Information Exchange and Cooperation in the Sphere of Quality Assurance of Medicines* was signed so far by four Member States.
- d) The “*Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response within the BSEC Region (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare – implementation*”.
- e) The Moldovan project proposal “*National Register of Diabetes Patients with BSEC regional implementation and international footprint*”.
- f) The Romanian project proposal “*Transplant cooperation proposal*”.

13. The Republic of Turkey presented their Concept Paper that serves as a Plan of Action for their Country Coordinatorship term, which was approved by the representatives of the Member States. The Concept Paper is attached as **Annex VI**.

14. The participants exchanged their views on the possibility of organizing a special meeting to outline the working principles and goals of the Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals in order to increase its effectiveness and efficiency. The next meeting will

serve as an evaluation and review meeting with the participation of the experts from Member States in order to finalize the past activities and overcome the common challenges.

15. Based on the experience gathered during COVID-19 Pandemic, the participants discussed about ways to increase the capacity of joint and rapid response to emergency health situations among the BSEC Member States in cooperation with WHO GDO Office in Istanbul.

16. The representative of the Republic of Turkey proposed to open their national digital e-learning platform (DILES) for knowledge sharing for the use of the BSEC Member States.

17. The participants discussed the possible activities within the Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals that should ensure the exchange of comparable and reliable data between the BSEC Member States and support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

18. The participants proposed to invite the representatives of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance to the next meeting of the Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.

SESSION II - AGENDA ITEM 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. No issue was raised under this item.

SESSION II - AGENDA ITEM 3: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The date and venue of the next meeting will be agreed in consultation between the Chairmanship-in-Office and the BSEC PERMIS.

SESSION II - AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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