



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/ICT/R(2024)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Online, 14 November 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies was held online on 14 November 2024.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Eliz GEVORGYAN, Acting Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia.
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
Russian Federation
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) attended the meeting as a BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea participated in the Meeting as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
6. The participants were welcomed by Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS. He emphasized the importance of cooperation in the sphere of ICT and wished the delegations fruitful work. Ms. Eliz GEVORGYAN also made introductory remarks on behalf of the Country-Coordinator.
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**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA

9. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the importance of the implementation of the “**BSEC Economic Agenda Towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area**”, in particular of the relevant provisions listed in ***GOAL 12: Sustainable information society with advanced Information and Communication Technology infrastructure***, as a guiding document aimed at achieving tangible results.

10. In this context, the BSEC PERMIS recalled the necessity of consolidating the project-oriented dimension of BSEC activities by identifying new projects of common interest to Member States to reinforce economic cooperation in the region while fully reflecting the provisions of the updated Economic Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP

11. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia, the current Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, presented the draft *Plan of Action of the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies* covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

12. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Plan of Action as a guiding document for the 2-year period. The Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE RECENT ICT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

13. The representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Türkiye, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia and the Hellenic Republic informed the Meeting about the recent developments and activities in their countries in the field of ICT. The presentations and statements are attached as a consolidated document in **Annex IV**.

14. The Working Group agreed to continue the discussion about the recent developments and activities in the field of ICT with a view to consider the possible prospects of cooperation among the Member States.

15. The representative of the Russian Federation proposed to initiate a project entitled “*Good practice sharing and mutual learning to facilitate e-Government services for SMEs in BSEC countries*”, which will be discussed in a more detailed way at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. KOREA-BSEC ICT COOPERATION PROGRAM

16. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the Korea-BSEC ICT Cooperation Program organized since 2011 and implemented by the Korean National Information Society Agency (NIA) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the financial contribution from Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS) of Korea.

17. The representative of the National Information Society Agency of the Republic of Korea made a presentation on the possibility of financing the potential projects in four

designated areas to be implemented in the eligible BSEC Member States in 2026. He reiterated the necessity of completing the demand surveys and submitting them by an official letter from the national agencies in charge of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the respective Member State to NIA through the Embassies of the Republic of Korea accredited in the respective BSEC Member State. The presentations and the sample of demand survey in the four designated areas are attached as **Annex V**.

18. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its long-standing contribution to the activities of BSEC in its capacity of a Sectoral Dialogue Partner and for the willingness to finance and implement concrete projects, under the ODA eligibility, in the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. No issues have been discussed under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time by the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Country-Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

21. The participants adopted the present Report for its submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.