



**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CMFA)**

The Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA) of the BSEC Member States was held online on 21 December 2022. H.E. Mr. Nicu Popescu, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova and BSEC Chairman-in-Office, chaired the meeting.

In addition to the Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners also participated in the Council Meeting.

At the opening, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu presented a brief overview of the activities and achievements of the Secretariat during the Moldovan Chairmanship which coincided with the 30th Anniversary of the BSEC.

The Ministers made statements on issues regarding the latest developments in the region and within the Organization. They praised the Moldovan Chairmanship and expressed their appreciation to the Latter for extending their BSEC Chairmanship to cover the entire year.

At the closing session, the Council adopted Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on various issues on the agenda of the Organization: including succession of the Chairmanship in Office; adoption of the 2023 BSEC Budget, renewal of Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status in BSEC; appointment of country coordinators to working groups; the interaction between BSEC and its Related Bodies; as well as the appointment of the First Deputy Secretary General.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Republic of Moldova handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to the Republic of Serbia which assumes the Chairmanship as of 1 January 2023, for a period of six months until 30 June 2023.