



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE BSEC PARTICIPATION
IN THE ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL VIRTUAL MEETING OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
GROUP OF FRIENDS**

The BSEC PERMIS was represented at the Annual High-Level Meeting of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Group of Friends held virtually in New York on 29 September, 2020 by the First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Ebru Barutçu Gökdenizler.

The BSEC has been a member of the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations since 2009. The Group of Friends currently consists of 153 members that include 124 member states of the UN, along with 27 international inter-governmental organizations and one non-member state.

The event held on the margins of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly on the theme of “Shaping a Better World: Building Cohesive and Inclusive Societies in a Challenging COVID-19 Environment”, also marked the 15th Anniversary of the UNAOC.

In her intervention at the online meeting, the First Deputy Secretary General reiterated BSEC’s commitment to the shared values and objectives of the UNAOC as outlined in the MoU concluded between BSEC and the UNAOC in 2016. She also underscored that BSEC, as a reliable and active member of the Group of Friends, would continue to promote the cause and activities of the Alliance in the pursuit of intercultural dialogue and understanding.

The First Deputy Secretary General further expressed BSEC’s keen desire to explore avenues of closer cooperation with the UNAOC through concrete projects and joint initiatives in order to better promote respect for a culture of diversity and religious pluralism. Ambassador Barutçu Gökdenizler stated that the wider Black Sea region was well disposed to place its assets through its Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation at the service of shared goals and common efforts to build bridges between cultures and civilizations.