



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO)

Upon the invitation by the Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu participated in the 25th General Assembly (GA) meeting of the UNWTO, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 16-20 October 2023.

Most of the 117 Member States were represented at the level of ministers and /or deputy ministers. High level representatives of other UN bodies and specialized agencies as well as of regional organizations also participated in the event.

The GA was officially opened by the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the Secretary General of the UNWTO Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili.

The debates within the General Assembly focused on two areas - Education and Investments - considered to be of key relevance for the future of tourism.

Within the General Assembly, a Plenary Meeting of the UNWTO Affiliated Members (AM) also took place. For the first time, since BSEC's attendance to UNWTO meetings, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General was invited to address such a Plenary. In his address, he stressed the importance of involving the business communities in supporting the development of the tourism sector in sustainable way.

On the sidelines of the event, the BSEC Secretary General had bilateral exchanges of views among others with Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, UNWTO Secretary General, Mr. Jaime Mayaki, Director of the Technical Cooperation and Silk Road of the UNWTO and Mr. Ion Vilcu, Director of the Affiliate Members Department of the UNWTO, focused on the possible ways of further strengthening the BSEC-UNWTO cooperation.

The UNWTO General Assembly decided that its next (26th) session will be held in Saudi Arabia in 2025.