

**PLAN OF ACTION  
OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP  
ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES  
1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020  
Country-Coordinator: Republic of Turkey**

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The present Action Plan in the field of cooperation on Massive Forest Fires sets the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation in the respective field between the BSEC Member States for the period 2018-2020.

In its activities the Ad Hoc Working Group will be guided by the provisions of the Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to natural and man-made Disasters, BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership, Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, decisions of the Ministers in charge of Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Public Communication Strategy and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

During the period 2018-2020, the Ad Hoc Working Group will be focused on the following main priorities:

- Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of massive forest fires and on providing necessary assistance in case of emergency situations in the BSEC Member States.
- Strengthening cooperation among the BSEC Member States on developing and use of modern technologies to prevent massive forest fires.
- Promoting regional trainings, seminars and scientific conferences aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts in case of massive forest fires.

The Ad Hoc Working Group will continue to encourage and support the training seminars and conferences aimed at exchanging experiences and best practices in the Emergency Assistance among experts of the BSEC Member States, other countries and international organizations.

To achieve these objectives, we provide the following recommendations to member countries;

1. Collaborating through exchange of expertise, knowledge and experience among member countries with the object of reducing and preventing forest fires

2. Encouraging member states on preparing risk maps for the identification of meteorological risks towards the prevention and reduction of forest fires.
3. Sharing good practices among member countries through conferences, workshops and seminars on Forest Fire Management System.
4. Sharing experiences by studying real fire behavior models in member countries by way of using advanced technology simulation programs for training purposes. (Evaluating of intervention strategies for forest fires by member countries)
5. Enhancing activities of public awareness within forest fires prevention (public spots, children's theaters, magazines, posters, social media applications)
6. Establishing a common communication platform where effective communication methods are used on reducing and preventing forest fires.

## **2. MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: 2018 October, İstanbul (presentation of draft action plan)

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: 2019 September, Antalya (sharing of experience)

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: 2020 October, İstanbul (evaluation report)

## **3. RELEVANT EVENTS**

1. Diverse Knowledge Systems for Fire Policy and Biodiversity Conversation, September 4-7, 2018 Egham, UK;
2. 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Forest Fire Research, November 9-16, 2018 Coimbra, Portugal;
3. 15<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and 5th Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference, December 10-14, 2018 North Carolina;
4. 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Wildland Fire Management, Safety and Prevention, March 28-29, 2019 Australia;
5. 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NISDR), May 13-17, 2019 Geneva, Switzerland;
6. 8<sup>th</sup> International Fire Ecology and Management Congress November 18-22, 2019 Tucson, Arizona.

## **4. COOPERATION WITH BSEC OBSERVERS AND PARTNERS:**

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fire will cooperate with BSEC Observer countries and Sectoral Dialogue Partners for the organization of joint events, including seminars and workshops.