

**JOINT DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND THE HEADS OF
THE EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)**

Sochi, 7 October 2011

The Ministers for Emergency Situations and the Heads of the Emergency Services of the BSEC Member States met in Sochi on 7 October 2011 within the framework of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation in BSEC.

The Ministers and Heads of Services:

WELCOMING the achieved level of cooperation between the rescue services and other national organizations of the BSEC Member States and, in this regard, confirming the validity of the decisions adopted at the high level meetings on cooperation in emergency assistance in Sochi (15 April 1998, 15-16 May 2002, 7 June 2006), Kiev (20 October 2005) and Baku (18 September 2009),

NOTING that those decisions were realized in:

- Establishment of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance (hereinafter – Working Group),
- Signing and entering into force of the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (hereinafter – Agreement) and Additional Protocol to it (hereinafter – Additional Protocol),
- Establishment of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance (hereinafter - Network of Liaison Officers),
- Interaction of the BSEC countries in various emergency situations,
- organization of regional trainings and seminars on prevention of the emergency situations and interaction in elimination of their consequences.

UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE of further strengthening of work on implementation of the Agreement and Additional Protocol,

WELCOMING the ratification of the Agreement and Additional Protocol by the Republic of Albania on 8 April 2011,

EMPHASIZING the need for further coordinated actions to prevent and eliminate consequences of natural and man-made disasters, to protect population and to provide humanitarian assistance in case of serious emergency situations or imminent threat thereof,

RECOGNIZING that such mutual actions demand cooperation in development and usage of modern technologies to predict and to fight large-scale damages, disasters, fires, floods, including means of space monitoring and prediction; special aircrafts, medical assistance to

the injured; protection of environment from hazardous consequences, transportation and distribution of humanitarian assistance etc.,

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the Resolution of the 24th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Bucharest, 8 June 2011) regarding the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risk directed at the cooperation of the seismologists of the BSEC Member States on diminishing seismic risks and early warning as well as on elaboration of recommendations for rescue operations,

STRESSING the role of relevant institutions of the United Nations system and its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating international efforts in prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations; the role of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in providing assistance in case of a disaster; the role with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution on prevention of and overcoming disasters in the Black Sea Basin, and expressing readiness to strengthen cooperation with those organizations,

HAVE AGREED on the following:

1. **To strengthen work on** implementation of the Agreement and the Additional Protocol as an important regional instrument in response to emergencies, including through strengthening cooperation within the BSEC Working Group, Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risks and Network of Liaison Officers for achieving the high level of preparedness to emergency situation in the Black Sea Region.
2. **To promote** organization of regional trainings and seminars aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts in case of emergency and increase of awareness about the best practices used in emergency situations,
3. **To further strengthen** cooperation in humanitarian assistance and liquidation of the consequences of emergency situations,
4. **To further develop** cooperation with relevant international organizations and structures in order to coordinate the ongoing activities in the field of cooperation in emergency assistance,
5. **To propose the establishment** by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents to be subordinated to the Working Group,
6. **To request** the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risks to undertake steps for its effective work,
7. **To request** the Working Group to undertake the necessary measures for the implementation of this Declaration and the Working Group's Plan of Action for 2011-2013 and to report to the Ministers for Emergency Situations and Heads of the Emergency Services about the implementation to this decision at its next meeting.

The Ministers for Emergency Situations and the Heads of the Emergency Services of the BSEC Member States expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation and its Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters for the excellent organization of the meeting and hospitality extended.