



Annex IV to BS/EMM/R(2006)1

JOINT STATEMENT

**of Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies of
the BSEC Member States**

The participants of the Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies met in Sochi, Krasnodarskiy Region, the Russian Federation, on 6-7 June 2006 and wish to state that:

Conscious of the need for coordinated actions to prevent and eliminate the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, to protect population and ecosystems, as well as to provide humanitarian assistance in case of serious crises and disasters or imminent threat thereof;

Taking into account that geographical, social, political and economic features of the BSEC Member States, and emergencies, arising under these conditions, may require assistance from any of these countries;

Acknowledging that in case of an urgent danger or exceptional large-scale disaster arisen immediate and adequate response will be required by some or all of the BSEC Member States;

Noting that as a result of natural and man-made disasters dangerous transboundary effects will cause the need for urgent actions on population and ecology protection on the territories of several Member States;

Being well aware of the fact, that the recent diversification of emergencies' risks, including those connected with terrorist attacks, puts forward the problem of using modern technologies to predict and respond in time;

Taking into account the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters signed in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 15 April 1998 (Agreement), and clearly realizing all the importance of the creation, within the framework of the Additional Protocol to the afore mentioned Agreement, signed in Kiev, on 20 October 2005, of the Network of Liaison Officers as a mechanism for coordination of mutual actions;

Commending the cooperation between the emergency services and other national institutions of the BSEC Member States;

Highly appreciating the role of UN, EU, their and other relevant institutions in coordinating international efforts in emergency response,
have mutually concluded that:

1. Ways and methods of regional cooperation declared in the statements of the Member States' representatives may be realized on the basis of the Agreement and the Additional Protocol to it.

2. Further deepening of cooperation and improvement of joint coordinated actions will be needed to prevent and eliminate the consequences of emergencies, provide humanitarian assistance to population.

3. Purpose of mutual actions will be the development of cooperation among the BSEC Member States and joint enhancement of national efforts in prevention of natural and man-made disasters, protection of population and ecosystems both for BSEC Member States and, possibly, third ones.

4. Such mutual actions assume collaboration 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; aircraft fires fighting, medical assistance to the injured; protection of environment of hazardous consequences, transporting and distribution of humanitarian cargoes, humanitarian demining, etc.

5. The usage of hi-tech equipment, modern technologies for quick and relevant response to any disaster, as well as for its forecasting, demands additional financial investments. With that in mind BSEC Working Group on cooperation in emergency assistance may prepare and include into the agenda of its meeting (Spring 2007) a detailed consideration of the options of attracting additional financial resources to be approved by the next Ministerial meeting.

6. Cooperation among the BSEC states will be within the framework of the Agreement, and summarizing the achievements in building regional cooperation there is to be mentioned the first step in creating the mechanism of such cooperation - the Network of Liaison Officers.

7. Aimed at reaching a closer cooperation of the existing national forces and facilities for rendering emergency assistance and their interaction with regional forces for mutual quick response in case of wide-scale emergency, it seems reasonable to provide training of the personnel of rescue teams of BSEC countries in accordance with international standards that may be done on the basis of the Rescue Training Center of EMERCOM of Russia "Krasnaya Polyana" (Krasnodarskiy Region, Russian Federation), as well as on the basis of training centers of other BSEC Member States.

The Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, Administration of the Krasnodar Region and the City of Sochi for warm welcome and organizing the Meeting.

Sochi, 7 June 2006