



Annex III to BS/EMM/R(2009)1

**DECLARATION
OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF AGENCIES ON EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Baku, 18 September 2009

The Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Baku on 18 September 2009 within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Ministers and Heads of Agencies:

COMMENDING the achieved good level of cooperation between the emergency services and other national institutions of the BSEC Member States,

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

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE of a document “The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” as an essential guide for implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in the coming years,

WELCOMING entering into force of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters on 5 July 2007, and adoption by the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance (WGCEA) at its Meeting in Odessa, Ukraine, on 3 April 2008, of Modalities of Work for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance and thus establishing a necessary mechanism for rapid response to the emergency situations on multilateral level in accordance with the Agreement,

ACKNOWLEDGING the work done by the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance at its Meetings in Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, on 3-4 October 2006, in Istanbul on 28-29 March 2007, in Odessa on 3 April 2008 and in Istanbul on 7-8 April 2009 for the implementation of the decisions of the Meeting of Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services, held in Sochi on 6-7 June 2006,

FURTHERMORE ACKNOWLEDGING the practical nature of the Training Exercise for National Medical Rescue Teams (Bursa, 12-18 August 2007), Scientific and Practical Seminar on Various Types of Rescue Activities and Rescuer's Training Programs for the BSEC Member States (Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, 19-20 September 2007), Training Seminar on Interaction of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers in Condition of a Large Scale Disaster (Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, 8-9 October 2008), Training Exercise on the Implementation of the Rescue Activities at Earthquakes (Gyumri, 1-2 December 2008) and Conference "Lessons learnt from the earthquake in Spitak" (Yerevan, 3 December 2008),

HIGHLY APPRECIATING the work done by Ukraine as a Country-Coordinator of the WGCEA in 2003-2005, by the Republic of Bulgaria as a Country-Coordinator of the WGCEA in 2005-2007 and by the Russian Federation as a Country-Coordinator of the WGCEA from 2007 (two consecutive periods) to the present time for fostering BSEC cooperation on emergency assistance,

EMPHASIZING the role of relevant institutions of the United Nations system and its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in coordinating international efforts in prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations,

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE of further strengthening cooperation with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Black Sea Commission, BSC) on prevention of and overcoming disasters in the Black Sea Basin,

FURTHERMORE EMPHASIZING the role of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in providing assistance in case of a disaster,

WELCOMING cooperation of seismologists of the BSEC Countries on the issues of seismic risk reduction and early warning as well as implementation of bi- and multilateral programs in this field,

HAVE AGREED:

1. **To intensify** joint efforts for implementation 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 and Additional Protocol to it as an important regional instrument in response to emergencies and, in this regard,

To declare the commencement of work of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance and

To invite the BSEC Member States to contribute actively into work of the Network for achieving a highest degree of its preparedness to emergencies in the BSEC Region.

To cooperate for providing humanitarian assistance in elimination of consequences of disasters, including those of terrorist acts.

2. **To further 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 different emergency situations.
3. **To promote** cooperation of seismologists of the BSEC Countries on the issues of seismic risk reduction and early warning as well as to encourage elaboration of bi- and multilateral programs in this field.
4. **To develop** cooperation with relevant international organizations and structures in order to coordinate the ongoing activities in the field of cooperation in emergency assistance and, in this regard,

To request the BSEC PERMIS to study possibilities of establishing relations with such international organizations and institutions in the field of emergencies as OCHA, IFRC, EU/MIC (EU Monitoring and Information Centre) and Regional Cooperation Council – Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (RCC - DPPI) and to make relevant proposals in this regard.

5. **To request** the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance to take necessary steps for the implementation of this Declaration and to report about its implementation to the Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States at their next meeting.

The Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation expressed their gratitude to the Government and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the excellent organization of the meeting and hospitality extended.