

Cooperation Agreement
between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and
the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Preamble

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC),

Taking into consideration the objective of the United Nations and of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation to promote and support every effort towards the development of multilateral regional cooperation on the basis of international law;

Noting the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

Noting also the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation providing for the relations with international organizations;

Recalling the Resolution 54/100 of 5 October 1999 of the United Nations General Assembly by which the latter granted observer status to the Organization of the Black Sea Economic;

Emphasizing the Resolution 55/211 of 20 December 2000 of the United Nations General Assembly inviting the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the specialized agencies, other organizations and programs of the United Nations to hold consultations with the BSEC and to initiate joint programmes pertaining to the fields of common interest to both Organizations;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. General provisions

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter: UN/ECE) and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (hereafter: BSEC) reaffirm their wish to work closer together for the stability and prosperity of member countries of both Organizations. Wherever feasible, they will seek complementarities and synergy of their efforts for the attainment of their respective objectives in the areas of their competence in accordance with their respective mandates and the principles and procedures described below.

The cooperation between the two Organizations will be coordinated by the UN/ECE Secretariat and the Permanent International Secretariat of the BSEC (hereafter: BSEC PERMIS).

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will provide each other with professional support, including through the Regional Advisory Services Programme of UN/ECE, within available resources, and seek extra-budgetary resources for additional activities.

Article 2. Areas of cooperation

The cooperation will extend to the following areas and activities of mutual interest:

Economic analysis and statistics

An exchange of primary and analytical information and publications and unofficial consultations of experts on professional issues will be carried out on a regular basis. Both Organizations will mutually invite experts to participate in seminars, conferences and symposia organized by the UN/ECE and the BSEC;

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will cooperate in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical information on salient issues of economic and social development of member countries.

Protection of environment

With a view to improving the quality of the environment, measures will be taken to assist countries to implement the regional environmental conventions and to facilitate compliance. Consistent with the current programme of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, and at the request of the respective member countries, Environment Performance Review may be carried out in order to assist countries to improve their management of the environment by: establishing baseline conditions; making concrete recommendations for better policy implementation and performance; and improving cooperation both with key partners and with the general public. The UN/ECE Secretariat will also assist countries in their participation in the “Environment for Europe” process, recognized as the major long-term pan-European political framework for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development.

Sustainable energy

Experts from the UN/ECE and the BSEC will jointly promote Energy Efficiency measures in the region, work on increasing the availability of affordable energy, inter alia, through interconnection of electrical power grids, work out and promote the recommendations on joint measures of the participating states aimed at reducing energy intensity of their national economies, work out the legal and institutional framework that would need to be implemented in order to attract investments in energy supplies and energy efficiency projects. They will analyse the environmental aspects of future fuel and energy developments in the member countries.

Experts from the UN/ECE and the BSEC will also cooperate on the issues of collection, analysis and assessment of relevant to BSEC information on the world gas market, on the issues of gas pricing policy and the technologies of gas storage.

Inland Transport

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will jointly promote the development of international transport infrastructure networks, transport and border crossing facilitation, as well as harmonization of safety and environmental norms and standards in the

area of transport in the BSEC region, through *inter alia* accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international transport agreements and conventions by the BSEC member states.

Trade, industry and entrepreneurship

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will promote the strengthening of economic ties between the countries of the BSEC region, through harmonizing rules and regulations in trade and border crossing.

Following a request from the member countries of the respective Organizations, the UN/ECE Secretariat will share with the BSEC PERMIS its expertise on trade facilitation and on trade model building for national economies. In particular, UN/ECE will assist BSEC and its Member States in improving the dissemination of trade facilitation information.

In order to facilitate and accelerate the development processes in the economies in transition, the UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will promote raising funds for major projects through innovative market means, including public and private partnership (PPP). They will join their efforts in support of the development of small and medium enterprises in the countries of the BSEC region.

Article 3. Modes of cooperation

a) Consultations and cooperation on substantive issues

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will hold periodic consultations on the issues of cooperation between the two Organizations.

They may, in particular, discuss the joint undertaking of UN/ECE-BSEC projects on matters of mutual interest, including those aimed at institutional capacity building, as well as studies, seminars, workshops, etc., subject to appropriate organizational and financial arrangements.

b) Exchange of information and documentation

The UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will exchange information on their activities.

The exchange of information will be organized through established channels, including through the global computer network Internet, by placing information on respective pages of the WWW-server, and also by specific requests.

c) Participation in the meetings

The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS will be regularly informed of the meetings of the UN/ECE and of its principal subsidiary bodies. Without prejudice to the

established rules and procedures of the BSEC, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS or the officials of the PERMIS may participate in the meetings of ECE as observers.

In the spirit of reciprocity, the UN/ECE Secretariat will be invited to attend the relevant meetings of the BSEC, in accordance with the established rules and procedures of both organizations.

Article 4. Concluding provisions

This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement between its parties and on the basis of the respective procedures of the UN/ECE and the BSEC.

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by direct negotiations.

No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to waive the privileges and immunities of the United Nations or of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, nor infringe upon the respective mandates of the UN/ECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS in accordance with their relevant rules and procedures.

The Agreement shall come into force upon its signing by the Executive Secretary of UN/ECE and the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

Done in Istanbul this second day of July two thousand and one in two copies in the English language.

For the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

For the Organization of the
of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Executive Secretary
of the United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe

Secretary General
Permanent International Secretariat
Organization of the Black Sea
Economic Cooperation