



BS/ST/WG/R(94)1

**REPORT
OF THE
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Yerevan, 10-11 November 1994

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held on 10-11 November 1994 in Yerevan, Armenia.
2. The Meeting was chaired by the President of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Fadey Sarkissian, who conveyed warm greetings to the delegations on behalf of the Armenian scientists and scholars.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of Egypt and Israel attended the Meeting as Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

5. Mr. Aram Shahinian, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Armenia, made an inaugural statement. The text of the statement is attached as Annex II.

H.E. Vahan Papasian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia attended one of the sessions of the WG.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex III.

ISSUES OF COOPERATION IN SCIENCE

a) Discussion of principles of elaboration and adoption of joint concrete programs

7. Under this item, the delegations had a thorough exchange of views regarding the principles of elaboration and adoption of joint concrete programs in the field of science in the BSEC region within the framework of the Terms of Reference of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology adopted by the Fourth MMFA in Tbilisi (Attachment 2 to Annex VI to BS/FM/R(94)1).

8. The WG discussed the proposal presented by the Armenian Delegation and instructed the BSEC Secretariat to prepare a background paper on this issue based on the views expressed at the Meeting as well as the views of other Participating States for submission to the next meeting of this WG.

DISCUSSION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO PROMOTE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

b) Possibility of exchanging information among the BSEC Participating States

9. Under this item of the agenda, the delegations held an extensive exchange of views and ideas and called upon the Participating States to contribute to the exchange of relevant and updated information in this field through their national bodies responsible for science and technology.

10. The WG deemed it expedient to explore the creation of an information network on scientific and technological research for the efficient exchange of data among the Participating States on this issue.

c) Assistance to small and medium-scale businesses in need of technological development

11. The WG, having considered the question of supporting small and medium-scale businesses in the BSEC area which are in need of technological development, stressed the necessity of encouraging loans and credits to such businesses.

d) Other issues concerning the promotion of technology transfer

12. The WG called upon the appropriate authorities of the Participating States to send to the Secretariat their proposals and ideas related to the issues identified during this

Meeting. They are also invited to appoint experts to prepare a background paper on that basis. This background paper will be presented to the next meeting of the WG.

Upon the proposal of the Romanian Delegation, this meeting of experts will take place in Romania one day prior to the next meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

13. The Participating States are invited to send to the Secretariat their proposals and ideas regarding the issue of technology transfer with a view to elaborating possible common approaches in this respect at the next meeting of the WG.

FINANCING OF JOINT CONCRETE PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

14. Having discussed the proposal related to the creation of the Scientific Fund of the BSEC Participating States, the WG came to the conclusion that the subject needed further study. It instructed the Secretariat to analyze the proposal and possible sources of financing the Fund and submit its recommendations on this subject to the next meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

15. The WG emphasized the importance of identifying relevant financial sources both within the BSEC region and from outside the area. The Secretariat was instructed in this context to contact appropriate international institutions such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), European Patent Office (EPO) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

DETERMINING PRIORITIES IN JOINT BSEC SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

16. The WG took note of concrete proposals made by the Armenian, Turkish and Ukrainian Delegations and invited other Participating States to forward their own proposals to the Secretariat in order to be presented to the next meeting of the WG.

DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES

- e) Application of the achievements of science and technology to concrete fields of economic cooperation in the Black Sea area through the relevant BSEC Subsidiary Bodies

17. The WG emphasized the practical importance of applying the achievements of science and technology to concrete fields of economic cooperation, taking into consideration the priorities stipulated in the Summit Declaration of 25 June 1992. The

WG came to the conclusion that this concrete target should be realized through the relevant BSEC Working Groups.

18. The WG supported the ideas and proposals expressed in the background paper on cooperation among academic communities of the BSEC Participating States prepared by the Secretariat. It recommended that the Fifth MMFA may wish to consider this new component of the BSEC process and to invite the Participating States to undertake appropriate actions. In this respect, the WG called upon the MMFA to assist in convening a BSEC conference of representatives of the academic communities of the Participating States which could launch a new dimension of cooperation.

19. The WG would welcome the wide participation of the representatives of the academic circles and institutions of the BSEC Observer States in concrete programs and projects of scientific and technological cooperation in the Black Sea region.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. None of the delegations raised any questions under this item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

21. The participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Yerevan.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22. The WG welcomed the proposal of Romania to host the next meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology in May of 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

23. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
