

**Statement of the Participants  
of the Meeting of the Undersecretaries and the Heads of Delegations  
of the Ministries of Education of the BSEC Member States  
(Istanbul, 27-28 August 2007)**

We, the Undersecretaries and the Heads of Delegations of the Ministries of Education of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Romania, Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey gathered in Istanbul, Turkey on 27-28 August 2007 within the framework of BSEC,

Having regard to:

- Joint Baky Declaration of the BSEC Ministers of Education on 16 April 2004;
- Joint Athens Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Education of the BSEC Member States on Cooperation in Higher Education and University Research on 29 September 2005

**Reassure** the utmost importance of cooperation in the field of education towards achieving the strategic goals laid down in the BSEC documents, specifically the BSEC Economic Agenda,

**Stimulate** lifelong learning from early childhood to adulthood through reviewing existing systems in BSEC Member States, exchanging training programs elaborated by the Boards of Education and also experiences and expertise in the field of education. Thus, linkages between learning, training and labor market in order to update every individual's knowledge and skills can be strengthened,

**Consider** the necessity of constant modernizing of technical and vocational education and training to keep up with the rapid changes brought about by globalization and technology and strengthen the cooperation in this field among BSEC Member States,

**Agree** that, together with Higher Education and University Research, another important BSEC area for cooperation in the field of education should be "Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education" to create and ensure wider equitable access to quality education at all levels in the Black Sea Region. In this regard the Participants recommend to the Working Group on Education to explore ways and means to further expand the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in our Educational Systems,

**Emphasize** the necessity of cooperation with the relevant international organizations in the field of education,

**Forward** this Statement to the respective BSEC Organs,

**Express** our gratitude to the Republic of Turkey, the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, along with BSEC PERMIS, for the warm hospitality.

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