I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The present Action Plan in the field of cooperation on Emergency Assistance sets the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation in the respective field between the BSEC Member States for the period 2021-2023.

In its work the Working Group will be the guided by the provisions of the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership, Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, decisions of the Ministers in charge for Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Public Communication Strategy and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

During the period 2021-2023, the Working Group will be focused on the following main priorities:

- Promoting coordination among the BSEC Member States and developing international cooperation in preventing and eliminating the consequences of the natural and man-made disasters, including floods and torrents as well as massive forest fires, and on providing necessary assistance in case of emergency situations in the BSEC Member States,

- Exchanging scientific and technological information and data among national crisis management and rescue centers of the BSEC Member States, as well as exchanging technologies for prevention and elimination of disasters, for example, floods and torrents and massive forest fires, including through the implementation of multilateral programs and projects;

- Promoting regional trainings, seminars and scientific conferences aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts in case of emergency and increase of awareness about the best practices, used in emergency situations, with a special focus on the activities of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance established pursuant to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement.

To achieve these objectives, we provide the following recommendations to member countries;

1. Providing general information about “Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS)” and sharing experiences on regional flash flood events.

2. Sharing knowledge and experiences regarding the methodology of preliminary flood risk assessment to able to determine areas prone to flood in cities.
3. Providing information about “Monitoring of implementation of Flood Risk Management Plans in Türkiye” with the aim of reflecting the approach of flood risk management in Türkiye and creating a platform that all BSEC Member States both can share their experiences.

4. Sharing knowledge and experience on basin-based (upper and lower basins) flood control approach, flood and sediment control structures”

5. Encouraging a common communication platform where effective communication methods are used on reducing and preventing natural disasters and emergencies (like earthquake, floods etc) and forest fires.

6. With member countries, exchange of information on the training of volunteers and organize meetings for sharing experience or knowledge on this issue.

7. Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters and on providing humanitarian assistance in case of emergency situations.

8. Strengthening cooperation among the BSEC Member States disaster and emergency management centers on sharing information about occurred and/or ongoing emergencies to prepare and organize response/recovery activities as soon as possible.

II. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND JOINT PROJECTS

1. MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP

1st Meeting: 2022 May 12-13, İstanbul (presentation of draft action plan)

2nd Meeting: 2023, TBC

3rd Meeting: 2024, TBC (For the purpose of the evaluation of the activities of the Country-Coordinatorship of Türkiye)

2. MEETINGS OF THE SUBORDINATED BODIES, I.E. BSEC NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS ON EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

Once/twice a year, before or back to back to the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.