



Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Citizen Protection
General Secretariat for Civil Protection

Annex IV to BS/WG/CEA&LO/R(2019)1

PLAN OF ACTION
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Country – Coordinator: Hellenic Republic

1. Scope

This Action Plan sets the main guidelines of the Working Group for Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for enhancing cooperation in the field of emergency management among the BSEC Member States for the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020.

The activities of the Working Group will be founded in the provisions of the following BSEC statutory and other relevant documents:

1. the Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (“the Agreement”), signed in Sochi, on 15th April 1998, and its Additional Protocol,
2. the BSEC Economic Agenda Towards an enhanced BSEC Partnership (Economic Agenda 2012), adopted by the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 11 June 2012) and endorsed by the BSEC Summit (Istanbul, 26 June 2012) and in particular “GOAL 17: Cooperation in Emergency Situations”,
3. the relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council of Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and of the Ministers in charge of Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States,
4. its Terms of Reference.

During the period 2019 – 2020, the Working Group will focus on the following main priorities, as decided at its meeting in BSEC Headquarters, on 7th November 2018:

1. Strengthening cooperation in implementing the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Member States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters and its Additional Protocol;
2. Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters and on providing humanitarian assistance and help on protection of environment in case of emergency situations or imminent threat thereof;
3. Promoting organization of 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 attention to the Liaison Officers of the relevant BSEC Network.

2. Activities

a. General activities

In general, the efforts of the Country – Coordinator will focus on ensuring implementation of the above mentioned priorities, in an efficient and effective manner, while also taking into account the principle of avoiding duplication of efforts.

The Working Group will continue to foster collaboration among BSEC Member States through exchange of expertise, knowledge and experiences.

b. Strengthening the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers

The primary focus of the Working Group will be to ensure the effectiveness of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers established pursuant to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States in Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters, as an instrument for information exchange and emergency response.

A reference document (“Modalities of work for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance”) has been also guiding the activities of the Network of Liaison Officers, approved by the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, in Odessa, on 3rd April 2008.

For the implementation of the BSEC Agreement and its Additional Protocol, it is of great importance to keep all necessary information on the Network and update it regularly. Therefore, this priority will be focused on ensuring that procedures are in place for keeping and sharing the aforementioned information.

c. Evaluation of the ad hoc Working Groups subordinated to the Working Group

The Working Group will focus on the activities of the ad hoc Working Groups on Massive Forest Fires, on Floods and Torrents and of Experts in Seismic Risk that have been established and subordinated to it in 2011 by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs upon the proposal of the Ministers for Emergency Situations and the Heads of the Emergency Services of Member States.

In this regard, special attention should be given to the discussions held at the informal meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in New York on 26th September 2019 concerning the frequency of the meetings and the quorum reached of the ad hoc Working Groups.

It will evaluate their activities, especially in the light of their role, as envisaged in their respective Terms of Reference. Based on this evaluation, the Working Group will seek to decide on their future in the best possible manner, through an open discussion and taking into account all possible proposals by the Member States. In this context, the provisions of the Agreement and its Additional Protocol should be respected, therefore issues pertaining to added value, the efficiency and effectiveness of the ad hoc Working Groups will be duly considered.

d. Mapping of climate change impact in the BSEC region

Emergency management is affected, inter alia, by the impact of climate change. To this end, it is necessary to strengthen BSEC Member States' efforts towards climate change adaptation, in order to increase the protection level of local communities and their abilities to efficiently manage the risk of natural disasters caused by or aggravated by climate change. The Working Group will work towards determining the effect of climate change in BSEC Member States and improving collaboration among them. In this regard, BSEC Member States will be invited to contribute to a draft overview, on a voluntary basis.

3. Cooperation with other BSEC bodies

The Working Group will cooperate with other BSEC Working Groups and bodies in relevant issues, within its mandate.

4. Planned meetings

Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance, BSEC HQs, 4th November 2019.