

Joint Belgrade Declaration on Climate Change and Green Economy
- BSEC contribution to Rio + 20

Belgrade, 23 April 2012

We, the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection and Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States – having met in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, on April 23, 2012 and

Acknowledging the global challenges in the 21st century, particularly the impacts of climate change which requires urgent global solutions as well as regional cooperation in the spirit of international agreements and instruments, in particular Rio Declaration and Agenda 21,

Taking into account the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection,

Recognizing that the wider Black Sea area is vulnerable to climate change which has local and regional impacts on the environment and socio-economic development, and the need for the BSEC Member States to work towards promotion of environmentally sound mechanisms and proactive solutions for facing and overcoming challenges and problems,

Welcoming the approaches in the wider Black Sea area towards green development mentioned in the Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC (Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010), which aims to reaffirm the role of the BSEC as a leader in the regional cooperation,

Recognizing that the enhancement of cooperation among the BSEC Member States shall contribute to giving higher priority of climate change issues in national and regional agendas and promoting the investments in green economy which will bring positive changes in socio-economic development,

Being aware that the promotion of green economy concept in synergy with the response to climate change will assure the sustainable development of the wider Black Sea area and maintain a long-term development process to the benefit of all,

Recalling that the UNFCCC Cancun Adaptation Framework invited all Parties to enhance action on adaptation by fostering climate-related observation and research in order to provide decision makers at national and regional levels with improved climate-related data and

information, which could serve as a basis for adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs of action linked also to the Hyogo Framework implementation,

Acknowledging the green economy as a means to achieve sustainable development, to protect and preserve the natural resources, to secure economic valuation of ecosystems services and goods, and to move the BSEC area towards low carbon development,

Convinced that green economy policies and measures provide opportunities to all BSEC Member States to facilitate the integration of economic development with environmental sustainability,

Noting that transition to green economy requires intersectoral policy coordination, capacity building, regional trans-boundary cooperation, technology development and transfer, additional financial resources, particularly in the case of public sector support to private businesses and industry,

Determined to enhance cooperation among the BSEC Member States on promotion of the policies and actions aimed at combating climate change,

Have agreed to:

Encourage the Member States to develop their national green economy pathways and low carbon policies and enhance appropriate measures;

Strive to identify applicable common approaches on combating climate change and promoting a green economy, benefiting from results and achievements at the national levels and regional and sub-regional initiatives and projects;

Develop regional approaches on climate change measures with respect to the capabilities of the countries ensuring energy security and sustainable development;

Continue efforts on forward-looking approaches in the BSEC region towards green development, as a part of coordinated regional response to climate change and a basis for sustainable development, that will enhance economic activity, investment, entrepreneurship and employment, by also focusing on a gradual turn towards new technologies, including cleaner energy and higher energy efficiency projects;

Urge the involvement of all major stake holders, including private and public sector, civil society organizations, in combating climate change impacts and achieving a green economy in the

context of sustainable development through the establishment of innovative partnerships, promotion of voluntary initiatives and exchanging experience;

Support transition towards carbon neutral and green growth through relevant policies, fiscal innovations, reforms, environmental incentives, removing of environmentally harmful subsidies, valuating of ecosystem goods and services, introducing/using system of environmental and economic accounting and other necessary measures;

Invite the respective governments to take innovative adaptation measures, in terms of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, early warning, prevention of water stress due to deteriorating climate conditions;

Call for development of portfolio of common adaptation-related actions, using existing infrastructure and institutional framework of the wider Black Sea area;

Enhance partnership cooperation between BSEC and UN, OECD, EU and other international organizations, regional and sub-regional institutions and initiatives on carbon neutral and green inclusive growth;

Encourage greater involvement of BSEC in securing access and diversification of financial resources for development and implementation of green economy and climate related programs, projects and activities;

Commit ourselves to contributing to the success of the forthcoming World Summit “Rio + 20”;

Express our appreciation and gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia for the successful organization of this Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us during the Meeting.