

**BAKU JOINT DECLARATION
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION-COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN THE BSEC REGION**

(Baku, 4 December 2018)

We, the Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Baku, within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Supporting efforts by the BSEC Member States to establish and develop relevant information and communication technologies (ICT) infrastructure with a view to addressing regional connectivity challenges and promoting viable projects in this sector having regional impact;

Recognizing the important role of the BSEC Related Bodies (PABSEC, BSEC Business Council, BSTDB, and ICBSS) in the identification, study and promotion of ICT projects;

Recognizing that innovations and evolution in the use of ICT play a fundamental role in the development of the digital economy, having a transforming effect on individuals, societies and economies throughout the world;

Reiterating the importance of improving digital market infrastructure with the aim to help developing sustainable and open platform;

Having in view to facilitate discussion on mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates between interested BSEC Member States;

Noting the importance of cooperation with other international organizations in the field of ICT, including, but not limited to, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU);

Declare our intention to:

1. Take further steps to achieve the strategic targets of BSEC in the ICT sector identified in the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” adopted in 2012, in particular its Goal 12: “Sustainable information society with advanced Information and Communication Technology infrastructure”;

2. Support, where appropriate, the provision of a safer information communication network in the BSEC Region and the exchange of experience and best practices in the field of network and information systems security or cyber security;

3. Exert further efforts in bridging the “digital divide” to ensure universal and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services;

4. Encourage cooperation among the ICT companies, techno parks and incubators of the BSEC Member States;

5. Take concrete steps towards supporting efforts by the BSEC Member States to establish and develop relevant ICT infrastructure with a view to addressing regional connectivity challenges and promoting viable projects in this sector having regional impact;

6. Make efforts to improve the regulatory and legal framework at the international and national levels, including that in the field of open and fair competition in the ICT sphere;

7. Recommend exchanging regular contacts and joint coordination meetings at executive and working level between the BSEC PERMIS and Related Bodies with their counterparts in international organizations and institutions in the field of ICT;

8. Promote the organization of regional trainings, seminars and conferences aimed at the exchange of experience and best practices in the sphere of ICT among experts of the BSEC Member States, other states and international organizations.

The Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies of the BSEC Member States expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting.