

**COORDINATION MEETING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND THE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF THE ARMENIAN BSEC CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE**

**STATEMENT BY MR. PARUYR HOVHANNISYAN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Online, 9 July 2024

Distinguished Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Secretary General,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address to you today and present the priorities of the Armenian Chairmanship-in-Office in the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the period of 1 July to 31 December 2024.

Allow me to start with the emphasizing the importance of the effective realization of the core objectives of the BSEC, notably promoting inclusive regional economic cooperation and trade facilitation for maintaining regional peace and stability. In this regard, we will spare no efforts to contribute to the promotion of the constructive partnership and inclusive dialogue for the benefit of strengthening of economic and cultural ties between the countries of the Black Sea Region, in accordance with the Organization's statutory objectives.

We have already mentioned on several occasions that inclusivity, cooperation and outreach will be at the heart of our Chairmanship-in-Office. Today, I would like to reiterate once again our commitment to support dialogue and exchange of best practices to advance equitable regional economic cooperation and sustainable development of the BSEC Member States, in line with our motto - "Engagement, Outreach, Resilience".

The Republic of Armenia aims at close cooperation with the Member States and the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) on further improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of the BSEC and the BSEC PERMIS, and operationalization of resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Armenia will also encourage engagement with the States or international organizations that have been granted or currently aspire to become BSEC Observers, dialogue partners and sectoral dialogue partners.

The Armenian Chair-in-Office will advocate for stronger synergies and synchronization between BSEC Organization and its related bodies aiming at better coordination, complementarity and greater harmonization of their work.

Armenia stresses the importance of the project-oriented approach in all BSEC areas as stipulated in the BSEC Economic Agenda. Therefore, Armenia will further support initiatives within the BSEC mandate, including through the Project Development Fund.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me now to briefly go through the key events to be held in Armenia in the course of our Chairmanship-in-Office:

- Let's start with the 49th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, during which we will examine and try to adopt the Conclusions of the Chairmanship, resolutions, decisions and recommendations reflecting the main developments for the semi-annual period in the Organization outlining the prospects for future cooperation. During the event the symbolic ceremony of the handover of the presidency will take place as usual. As per previous practice, the meeting will take place in December. Exact dates as well as the necessary details of the Meeting will be circulated in due course.
- The CMFA Meeting will be preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). The date and the format will be communicated as well at a later stage.
- We have interesting ideas with regard to the first Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), which we plan to organize in October. In particular, we look forward to holding an in-person meeting in the second largest city of Armenia, Gyumri. Prior to the CSO meeting a retreat ("an informal meeting without ties") will be convened by the Chair-in-Office to discuss the current situation in the BSEC Organization, as well as cooperation with the BSEC past and aspiring Observer, dialogue partner and sectoral dialogue partner States. The latter will be invited to participate in the retreat as the guests of the Chair. We stand ready to discuss the details of the retreat with the PERMIS and Member States.

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Armenia's commitment to promoting mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of the Organization, aimed at achieving of innovative and sustainable development.

We are confident that regional economic cooperation guided by the principles outlined in the BSEC Charter can contribute to enhancing peace, stability, prosperity and well-being of people in the Black Sea region.

I thank you and stand ready to answer your questions if there are any.-



ARMENIAN BSEC
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE,
JULY-DECEMBER 2024

**ENGAGEMENT
OUTREACH
RESILIENCE**

PRIORITIES OF THE ARMENIAN CHAIRMANSHIP- IN-OFFICE

IN THE ORGANIZATION OF BSEC



Armenian Chairmanship-in-Office in the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

During its tenure as the Chair-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in the second half of 2024, the Republic of Armenia will strive to promote constructive dialogue and exchange of best practices for the advancing of regional economic cooperation, in line with the Organization's statutory objectives.



Armenia believes that equitable and inclusive regional cooperation in the Black Sea region can contribute to sustainable economic development of the BSEC Member States and strengthening of the peace and security in the region.



What We Are Going To Do ?

The Republic of Armenia will closely cooperate with the Member States and the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) on further improvement of the effectiveness of the BSEC. Armenia will also encourage engagement with the States or international organizations that have been granted or currently aspire to become BSEC Observers, dialogue partners, and sectoral dialogue partners.

Armenia stresses the importance of the project-oriented approach in all BSEC areas and will further support it, including through the Project Development Fund.



Priorities of the Armenian Chairmanship

Being guided by the BSEC Charter, as well as the BSEC Economic Agenda “Towards a sustainable future for the wider Black Sea area” the Republic of Armenia has defined the following priorities of its presidency:



Cooperation

Strengthening regional cooperation in the BSEC area through developing a stronger dialogue and mutually beneficial sectoral cooperation among the Member States; encouraging engagement with all interested stakeholders, with the aim of exploring



Engagement

Encouraging engagement with all interested stakeholders, with the aim of exploring possible institutional arrangements for such cooperation;



Connectivity

Promoting regional transport connectivity and trade, with a focus on the use of Information and Communication Technologies and innovation;



Sustainability

Promoting further cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies to complement and reinforce the global and regional efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and BSEC Economic Agenda “Towards a sustainable future for the wider Black Sea area”.



Key Events Under Armenian Chairmanship

July 9, 2024

Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, BSEC Related Bodies, and the BSEC PERMIS.

October, 2024

Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in Gyumri, Armenia.

December, 2024

Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

December, 2024

49th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States.