



# **ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

## **Permanent International Secretariat**

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**STATEMENT BY**  
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**FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**OF THE BSEC PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**  
**AT THE**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UN CONFERENCE**  
**TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
**THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND**  
**ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT**  
**WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**NEW YORK, 12 JANUARY 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this important meeting. I wish you every success in the pursuit of the common goals of the international community.

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, otherwise known by its acronym as BSEC, is an intergovernmental organization encompassing the Balkans, Caucasus and the territories of the Black Sea Littoral States. BSEC aims at contributing to regional and international peace, security, stability and welfare by means of developing economic and trade relations between its Member States.

It goes without saying that security and economy are closely related issues. A process of economic cooperation and development can only evolve successfully in a secure and stable environment. Organized crime, in all its forms, and terrorism together with linkages such as illicit trafficking in drugs, human beings, radioactive materials, precious minerals and small arms and light weapons, not only pose a major threat to international, regional and human security but also constitute an impediment on the way of establishing an economic environment attractive to international cooperation and foreign private investment.

Hence, BSEC launched in 1997 the process of regular meetings of the Ministers of Interior of the Member States. The process resulted in the signing in 1998 "the Agreement on Cooperation in combating crime, in particular in its organized forms." The Agreement entered into force in 1999 which was later complemented by its two Additional Protocols, including the one on terrorism.

Under these international instruments the Member States of BSEC have undertaken to cooperate and exchange information also with the purpose of preventing, suppressing, detecting, disclosing and investigating of crimes, including inter alia, illegal trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as biological, chemical and radiological weapons and nuclear and radioactive materials.

The BSEC Member States have also addressed themselves to measures aimed at combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as criminal activities related to immigration.

All these steps that have been taken by the Member States of BSEC at regional level are very much in line with the measures provided for in 2001 UN Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

The Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC closely follows the ongoing UN process regarding the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in Small Arms, and Light Weapons in all its aspects. We believe that the success of the efforts of the international community, including those of the BSEC Member States, designed to combat organized crime, in all its forms and terrorism, in great part, also depends on the full and effective implementation of the 2001 UN Programme of Action.

The Review Conference no doubt will provide a valuable opportunity for the international community to renew its resolve to eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons with all its nefarious consequences.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.