



High Level Virtual Conference of the BSEC Member States on: *“The intensification of regional cooperation for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals”*

10th of November, 2020

Bucharest, Romania

Background

As it is widely known, in 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this document, the heads of UN Member States have committed their countries that: *“Until [...] 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. [...] also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.”*

According to this document, *“By 2030, [...] the signatory states have to [...] ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”*

Reaching our collective commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require political leadership and scalable multi-stakeholder action. Governments will need to coordinate, consult and work across policy areas in an unprecedented way to dramatically accelerate progress. Achieving the 2030 Agenda will also demand the effective use of planning, budget, procurement, monitoring and evaluation processes, to better align priorities and to enhance transparency and accountability.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as integral components of the 2030 Agenda, provide cornerstones for international cooperation, with the purpose of fostering inclusive growth and progress in all areas of the economic and social life, as well as protecting the environment.

The SDGs are a roadmap for humanity. The COVID-19 pandemic presents both an enormous challenge and tremendous opportunities for reaching the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The pandemic has exposed weaknesses in the international system that need to be addressed as part of the ‘build back better’ agenda. The SDGs are not only useful for understanding COVID-19, they are also a valuable tool to respond to the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 and to guide the national and international recovery effort.

In the context of the 74th General Assembly of the UN, on 25 September 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have organised in New York a high-level event to launch the *Global Hub for the Governance of the SDGs*. **The Romanian Government, through its Department of Sustainable Development, is among the initiators of this programme, alongside the Government of Columbia.**

The Hub is an initiative meant to facilitate inter-governmental cooperation and the exchange of good practices for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and includes an online knowledge platform that will provide access to successful examples for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than that, it also offers a type of assistance to ensure coherence of the public policies, monitoring and assessment or budgeting based on results.

This year, Romania holds the mandate of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office (*1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020*). The motto of the sixth Romanian Chairmanship, “*Bridging Shores Enhancing Cohesion*” reflects Romania’s belief that the prerequisite for the further consolidation of BSEC activities should be based on more cohesion, interconnectivity and dialogue.

Organizing such an important event in this format reconfirms the continued commitment of Romania as regional hub in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Romanian Chairmanship of BSEC to strengthening regional cooperation in the Black Sea area, as a way of boosting economic cooperation and promoting stability and prosperity in a region with great development potential.



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ROMANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP
**Bridging Shores
Enhancing Cohesion**
BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020



Purpose

In the above context, the High Level Conference aims to offer a unique framework for a valuable exchange of knowledge and good practices among governmental coordinators of SDGs in the Black Sea region and other actors from public institutions, the academic sector, and civil society, as well as among stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, thus generating benefits for all parties involved and creating valuable synergies.

Participants

Governmental coordinators for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in the BSEC Member States, Government officials, members of Parliaments, BSEC Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners, BSEC related bodies and other international organizations, journalists, experts in the field, academics etc., are expected to participate in the event.