69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

48th Plenary Meeting

Cooperation between the United Nations and The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Agenda Item 123 (d)

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Michel Spinellis Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

New York, November 11, 2014

Check against delivery
Mr. President,

I have the honor to introduce, on behalf of the Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the draft resolution under Agenda Item 123 (d) contained in document A/69/L.14 entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization". Allow me, at the outset, to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the valuable support and positive spirit by all countries co-sponsoring this resolution.

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), with almost 23 years life-span, is the most inclusive and institutionally mature regional economic organization in the wider Black Sea area, aiming at promoting enhanced cooperation among its Member States in many areas, as well as ensuring peace and stability in the Black Sea region. In recent years, the wider Black Sea area has attracted considerable attention as a hub for energy and transport between Europe and Asia. Hence, the activity of BSEC has increased, recognizing the importance of regional initiatives, joint projects and enhanced coalitions as important assets in addressing regional challenges and achieving sustainable development.

Under the current Hellenic Chairmanship from July 1st until December 31st 2014, BSEC also seeks to enhance its support-building capabilities as well as economic cooperation with other regional and international organizations, while at the same time advancing the emergence of the Organization as the appropriate forum for cooperation, through concrete project implementation in the Black Sea region. In this respect, the BSEC reaffirms its commitment to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies in fields of work that are of common interest to both Organizations.

This cooperation will be instrumental in bringing the wider Black Sea area closer to its neighbors and the world, and would encourage concerted efforts, common initiatives and the implementation of joint projects. To this effect, priority areas already existing within BSEC, such as the environment, transport, energy, institutional reform and good governance, trade and economic development, agriculture and combating organized crime, constitute the necessary basis for developing additional joint projects in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to express the sincere hope that this year's resolution will be adopted without a vote, as has been the case in the past years, and my conviction that once adopted, it will further strengthen the UN-BSEC cooperation, thus contributing to the promotion of both the principles and objectives of the United Nations, as well as the purposes and goals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

Thank you, Mr. President