

Dear Ministers,

Dear Secretary-General,

Distinguished heads of the delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me express gratitude to the Greek BSEC chairmanship for well organized event and wish success in achieving ambitious goals. We are confident, today's meeting will also be a successful one.

Expressing greetings of the Minister of Labor and Healthcare of Georgia, Mr Davit Sergeenko, let me inform you that Georgia has developed the National Health Care Strategy 2011–2015 which serves the following objectives:

- Ensuring access to the quality medical care
- Ensuring equal access to health care
- Universality of the Health Care System
- Quality assurance systems for outpatient and laboratory service providers

As for the Health Care National Quality Infrastructure, Georgia has an efficient network of emergency preparedness, which involves various public and private medical institutions as well as Civil Society Organizations.

The Ministry of Labor and Health Care of Georgia elaborated National Plan of emergency preparedness and response to health threats for monitoring National Quality Infrastructure in health care and related fields. In this regard and in the spirit of the declaration which we will hopefully adopt today, Georgia will gladly share its experience with other BSEC member states.

Through regional cooperation we can counter common challenges in our national health care systems. Georgia acknowledges the need for even strengthened cooperation in the sphere of the public health and pharmaceuticals throughout the Black Sea area. We will further contribute to the establishment of a “Network for the emergency preparedness and response to health threats within the BSEC Region”. We also believe that the international health regulations under the World Health Organization (WHO) should be strictly implemented. Here, we believe, the relevant BSEC working group could be the right fora for the regular exchange of information among the Member States.

Therefore, on behalf of the delegation of Georgia I would like to join other delegations in supporting the declaration before us.

I thank you very much.
