



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA49/LC49/REC156/17

RECOMMENDATION 156/2017¹

Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Legislative Framework for Economic Growth and Social Integration

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) confirms that economic growth and its social consequences occupy an important place among the factors and conditions that affect the well-being of people. Economic growth enlarges opportunities for improving the welfare level and allows implementation of the important tasks set out in the Millennium Declaration. The Assembly expresses confidence that successful multilateral economic cooperation forms an efficient response to the interrelated challenges of economic growth and social integration.
2. The PABSEC welcomes the efforts of the BSEC Organization in determining the common strategic approaches of the Member States in the Summit declarations, ministerial meetings, as well as in intergovernmental agreements, action plans and other policy documents and implementation of major projects and initiatives of common interest for the Member States. The great potential of the Organization is used as a platform for dialogue for more active, effective and constructive role in achieving the shared goal of economic development in the BSEC region in the interests of all stakeholders.
3. The PABSEC notes that the *BSEC Economic Agenda – Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership* (adopted in Istanbul on 26 June 2012) attributes special importance to

¹ Assembly debate on 5 July 2017 (see Doc.: GA49/LC49/REP/17, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Legislative Framework for Economic Growth and Social Integration” discussed in Chisinau on 17 May 2017; Rapporteur: Mr. Ramazan Can, Member of the Committee, Turkey)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Istanbul on 5 July 2017

enhancement of economic growth in the BSEC region and in the framework of the Goal 1 of the Agenda, “Pursuing Sustainable Development”, calls for a number of strategic measures:

1. *Considering the principle of sustainable development within the Black Sea Region and the BSEC Member States, aimed at ensuring the rational balance between economic growth, social responsibility and environmental protection, with the view to further strengthen economic cooperation in the region.*
2. *Recommending continuation of adopting the principles and practice of sustainable development into the national legislation, public policies and institutional mechanisms of the Member States as long term objectives.*
3. *Ensuring the sustainable development of human resources with due consideration to the prevailing demographic trends in the region and their impact on employment, education and training, health and social services, gender equality, child protection, migration and social inclusion*
4. The PABSEC confirms that development itself is a central goal and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes one of the key elements in the activities of the BSEC Member States. One of the most important long-term goals of economic policies of the governments is to stimulate economic growth and to maintain its pace at a stable and optimal level. Given the fact that economic growth is accompanied by increased social inequality, it is very important to ensure inclusive economic growth and to observe basic principles of enhancing social integration of citizens.
5. The PABSEC believes that national parliaments have the crucial task of maximizing the use of the available legal mechanisms to mobilize public awareness so that the benefits of economic growth multiply the possibilities for increased living standard. Building a socially just society implies equalization of incomes of people, accessibility of public and social benefits for different groups of population and creation of favourable conditions for living.
6. The PABSEC emphasizes that successful and sustainable development at rapid pace requires strong political leadership, patience, responsibility and pragmatism. Continuous growth strategy sets priorities that have to go in parallel with the country specificities and national circumstances. Each country should primarily take responsibility for its own development, however, national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programs, measures and strategies.
7. The PABSEC states that parliamentarians need to intensify their activities in national parliaments and international parliamentary structures through cooperation with other parliamentary assemblies and organizations to promote sustained economic growth and ensure sustainable development and social integration.
8. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *ensure* the necessary normative and legal regulation of activities for strengthening economic development and social integration;
 - ii. *develop and adopt* a long-term social and economic policy focusing on economic development with clearly stated innovation trends geared toward high levels of stability and predictability;

- iii. *control* the activities of the government in the field of solving complex socio-economic problems, improving the quality of economic growth and ensuring its inclusive nature;
 - iv. *identify* priority areas of socio-economic development based on the principles of social partnership with the aim to achieve the balance between economic growth and sustainable society;
 - v. *allocate* responsibilities with a view to ensuring coordination of actions to achieve effective intersectoral and interregional cooperation in the field of economic development and social integration;
 - vi. *develop and implement* innovative development strategies at the local, regional and sectoral level with further application in the field of sustainable economic growth and sustainable social integration;
 - vii. *establish* mechanisms to ensure regular exchange of information between relevant agencies of the BSEC Member States for elaboration of social policies between countries with participation of representatives of government institutions and civil society organizations;
 - viii. *actively participate* in the ratification of international instruments pertinent to sustainable development and inclusive growth and incorporate their provisions in national legislation;
 - ix. *strengthen* the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders to national development efforts, and to promote the development of an international partnership for development;
 - x. *provide support* to the actions undertaken by the BSEC Member States to expand multilateral cooperation in the sphere of sustainable development and social integration and commend the activities of the BSEC Working Groups in these spheres.
9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.