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**SECRETARIAT  
BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL  
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
DHAKA**

**Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting [Hybrid]  
29 March 2022  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Report of the Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting**

01. The Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 29 March 2022 to finalize the preparations for the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit. The list of the Ministers and the Heads of Delegation is at **Annex I**.
02. The Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Hon. Professor G. L. Peiris, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The full text of the Opening Remarks of the Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka is at **Annex II**.
03. The Ministers reviewed BIMSTEC's progress in the reconstituted Sectors and Sub-sectors since holding of the Seventeenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held virtually in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 01 April 2021. They expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the past years and resolved to take necessary steps to bring focus in the activities of the organization. The full text of the statements delivered by the Heads of Delegation are at **Annex III-IX**.
04. The Secretary General of BIMSTEC presented a Report to the Meeting, which is at **Annex X**.
05. The Ministers considered and approved the Report of the Twenty Second Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 28 March 2022.
06. The Ministers endorsed the updated draft Provisional Agenda of the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit (**Annex XI**) and also endorsed the updated text of the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration (**Annex XII**) and recommended them to the Leaders for approval.
07. The Ministers reiterated their readiness to sign the following BIMSTEC Convention/MoA/MoU during the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit:

- i. BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters,
- ii. Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) in Colombo, Sri Lanka,
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies/Training Institutions of BIMSTEC Member States

08. The Ministers reiterated its decision at the Seventeenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and recommended the following important documents for adoption by the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit:

- i. BIMSTEC Charter
- ii. Rationalisation of sectors and sub-sectors of BIMSTEC
- iii. BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity

09. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for carrying out the responsibilities of Chairmanship since the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit and successfully hosting the Seventeenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting virtually in Colombo as well as the Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Colombo. They also appreciated the kind acceptance of the Royal Thai Government to assume the next Chairmanship of BIMSTEC.

10. The Ministers adopted the Report of the Eighteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and recommended its approval by the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit.

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