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

**Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) [Virtual]  
01 August 2024  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**Report of the Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee  
(BPWC)**

**Agenda Item 01: Opening of the Meeting**

01. The Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) was held virtually in Bangkok, Thailand on 01 August 2024.

02. Delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand participated in the Meeting. The list of the participants is at **Annex I**.

03. **Ms. Rujikorn Saengchantr**, Acting Director General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand welcomed all the distinguished delegates to the Seventh Meeting of the BPWC and delivered the Opening Remarks. In the remarks, she mentioned that the Seventh BPWC is a timely opportunity for the National Focal Points of BIMSTEC to wrap up their work on the remaining tasks, particularly the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit Declaration, which is an integral part of the Summit. She encouraged the BPWC members to put their thoughts on the Draft Summit Declaration to ensure that the document would reflect the vision to drive BIMSTEC towards a prosperous, resilient and open future. The full text of the Opening Remarks is at **Annex II**.

04. **Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain**, Director of the BIMSTEC Secretariat, delivered the Special Remarks. In the remarks, he warmly welcomed all the delegations for attending the Seventh Meeting of BPWC virtually. He recalled the directives of Honourable Foreign Ministers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat held in New Delhi on 11-12 July 2024, that mandated the restructuring of the Summit Declaration making it more action oriented with focus on 3 basic aspects of Security – Food Security, Energy Security & Human Security. Mr. Hossain mentioned that the Ministers also mandated that the Declaration should focus on outlining the vision of the leaders, and their decisions and directives should be presented in an Annex to the Declaration. The full text of the Special Remarks is at **Annex III**.

**Agenda Item 02: Election of the Chairperson**

05. As per the Rules of Procedure of BPWC, the Head of Delegation of the National Focal Point of the Member State holding the BIMSTEC Chairmanship shall chair the Special BPWC Meeting. Therefore, **Ms. Rujikorn Saengchantr**, Acting Director General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the Head of Delegation of the Member State holding the BIMSTEC Chairmanship, was elected to chair the Meeting. Upon assuming the Chairmanship, the Chair thanked all the delegates for their participation in the Meeting and briefed the delegates pertaining to conduct the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 03: Adoption of the Agenda**

06. The Meeting may consider and adopt the Agenda as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/01/Rev.1**, which is at **Annex IV**.

**Agenda Item 04: Item-wise review of the action taken on the decisions of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 01-02 February 2023**

07. The Meeting took note of the progress on the decisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BPWC as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/02**.

**Agenda Item 05: Discussion on the draft Provisional Agenda and draft Sixth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration**

08. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the draft Provisional Agenda and draft Sixth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/03**. The Sixth BIMSTEC Summit is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 04 September 2024.

09. After extensive deliberations, the Meeting finalized the draft Provisional Agenda and the draft text of the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration and submitted it to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting for consideration, which are at **Annex V and VI** respectively.

10. The Meeting also decided to avail of modern communication platforms such as WhatsApp forming a Group comprising of one delegate from each Member State and the BIMSTEC Secretariat to coordinate the matters regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit and its preceding Meetings.

**Agenda Item 06: Discussion on the draft Provisional Agenda of Twentieth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting**

11. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Meeting that Thailand will host the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and the Twentieth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting (MM), back-to-back, on 03 September 2024. The Twenty Fourth SOM will start in the morning, followed by the Twentieth MM in the afternoon.

12. Following the brief of Thai Delegation, the Meeting requested the Host *i.e.*, Thailand to host the 24<sup>th</sup> Session BIMSTEC SOM on 02 September 2024 and 20<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on 03 September 2024. In this regard, Thailand informed that it has taken note of this matter and will come back on this after having internal consultations.

13. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the draft Provisional Agenda of the Twentieth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/04**.

14. After deliberations, the Meeting finalized the draft Provisional Agenda of the Twentieth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and submitted it to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting for consideration, which is at **Annex VII**.

**Agenda Item 07: Discussion on the draft Provisional Agenda of Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting**

15. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the draft Provisional Agenda of the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/05**.

16. After deliberations, the Meeting finalized the draft Provisional Agenda of the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and submitted to the SOM for consideration, which is at **Annex VIII**.

**Agenda Item 08: Discussion on the annual schedule/calendar of BIMSTEC Meetings**

17. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the annual schedule/calendar of BIMSTEC Meetings as contained in the Secretariat's **Document Number BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/06**.

18. After discussion, the Meeting decided the following:

- (i) Task the Secretariat to prepare an annual (January – December) tentative calendar of events along with comprehensive work plan in consultation with the member States;

- (ii) In order to do so, member States will convey suitable timeframe for hosting meetings/activities of their respective Sectors and Sub-sectors;
- (iii) Establish a consistent quarterly schedule for Working Group Meetings to ensure ongoing discussions and continuous progress on sector-specific issues;
- (iv) Schedule virtual Meetings as needed, especially when in-person Meetings are not feasible due to logistical constraints or urgent issues.

**Agenda Item 09: Consideration of the Report of the Special Session of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (S-BNPTT) held virtually in Bangkok, Thailand, on 08-09 May 2023**

19. The Meeting considered the Report of the Special Session of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (S-BNPTT) held virtually in Bangkok, Thailand, on 08-09 May 2023 as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/07** and submitted to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for endorsement.

**Agenda Item 10: Consideration of the Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) held virtually in Yangon, Myanmar on 09-10 July 2024**

20. The Meeting considered the Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) held virtually in Yangon, Myanmar on 09-10 July 2024 as contained in the Secretariat's Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/08** and submitted to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for endorsement.

**Agenda Item 11: Discussion on the Concept Note on BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting**

21. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the Concept Note on BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting as contained in the Secretariat's **Document Number BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/09**.

22. After extensive deliberations, the Meeting agreed in principle to the Concept Note on BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting (**Annex IX**).

23. The Meeting decided that Nepal will convey its concurrence on the finalized Concept Note on BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting, to the Secretariat **by 08 August 2024** with a view to submitting to the 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting for endorsement.

24. The Meeting also decided that the matter of ‘de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration’ to be deliberated for inclusion in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the ‘BIMSTEC Sub-Group on cooperation of Countering Radicalization and Terrorism’ during its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting.

**Agenda Item 12: Discussion on the Concept Note on Establishment of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy**

25. The Meeting considered the Note by the Secretariat on the Concept Note on Establishment of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy as contained in the Secretariat’s **Document Number BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/10**.

26. After extensive deliberations, the Meeting agreed in principle to the Concept Note on Establishment of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy (**Annex X**).

27. The Meeting also decided that India will convey its concurrence on the finalized Concept Note on Establishment of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, at the earliest with a view to submitting to the 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials’ Meeting for endorsement.

**Agenda Item 13: Consideration of the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Governing Board of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate held in Noida, India, on 13 December 2023 and Special Meeting of the Governing Board of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate held virtually on 01 February 2024**

28. The Meeting considered the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Governing Board of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate held in Noida, India, on 13 December 2023 and Special Meeting of the Governing Board of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate held virtually on 01 February 2024 along with the recommendations contained therein as contained in the Secretariat’s **Document Number BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/11**.

**Agenda Item 14: Consideration of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate**

29. The Meeting considered the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate as contained in the Secretariat’s Document Number **BIMSTEC/BPWC/07/2024/12** and submitted to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for endorsement.

**Agenda Item 15: Any Other Matters**

30. No other matter was raised under this Agenda Item.

**Agenda Item 16:     Date and Venue of the Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee**

31.     The Meeting requested the Chair *i.e.*, Thailand to consider hosting a Special Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) preceding 24<sup>th</sup> Session of BIMSTEC SOM. Thailand took note of holding the Special Meeting of BPWC and agreed to convey on this in due course.

**Agenda Item 17:     Consideration and Adoption of the Report of Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee**

32.     The Meeting considered and adopted the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee for submission to the Twenty Fourth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting for consideration.

**Agenda Item 18:     Closing of the Meeting**

33.     The Chair thanked the delegates for their active participation and their valuable contributions in successful conclusion of the Meeting while the Delegates appreciated the Chair for steering of the Meeting effectively and efficiently.

34.     The Meeting also expressed its sincere thanks to the Secretariat for their hard work and contribution in facilitating the Meeting.

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