

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



**Report of the Eleventh BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting
12 November 2008, New Delhi**

The Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC Member States met in New Delhi on 12 November 2008 to finalise preparations for the Second BIMSTEC Summit being held in New Delhi on 13 November 2008. The Ministers recalled with satisfaction their useful meeting in New Delhi on 29 August 2008, at which time also they had taken stock of the preparations for the Summit.

2. The Ministers had before them for consideration the Report of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) which had convened in New Delhi on November 11, 2008. The Ministers approved the SOM report.

3. The Ministers also had the text of the Second BIMSTEC Summit Declaration. The Ministers endorsed the draft Summit Declaration (at Annexure) and recommended it to the Leaders for approval.

4. The Ministers reviewed BIMSTEC's cooperation activities and projects. They expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the BIMSTEC FTA negotiations for 'Trade in Goods' and called for its early finalisation.

5. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the finalization of the following:

- i. Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking
- ii. Memorandum of Association (MoA) regarding BIMSTEC Energy Centre in India.
- iii. Memorandum of Association(MoA) regarding BIMSTEC Weather and Climate Centre in India.
- iv. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory in Bhutan.

They expressed confidence that the above Convention, MoAs and MoU will be signed shortly after completion of procedural modalities by all member states.

6. The Ministers also expressed appreciation at the organising of the BIMSTEC Business Summit on November 12, 2008 in New Delhi. They expressed confidence that the Business Summit would provide a further impetus to business activities in the BIMSTEC framework.

7. They reiterated their commitment to make all efforts to work together and help increase substantive cooperation in BIMSTEC. This will be further encouraged through the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, the location of which will be decided at the next BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting.

8. The Ministers used the opportunity of their meeting to once again exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest to BIMSTEC member states.

9. The Ministers commend their Report for the consideration and approval of the Second BIMSTEC Summit.

12 November 2008
New Delhi