APPENDICES
DECLARATION
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE BANGLADESH-INDIA-SRI LANKA-THAILAND
ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BIST-EC)
BANGKOK 6 JUNE 1997

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, the Minister of State of India, the Deputy
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand,
acting on behalf of their respective Governments;

MINDFUL of the existence of mutual interests and common concerns among their countries and
complementarities of their economies and convinced of the potential for strengthening further the
existing bonds of friendship and cooperation;

DESIRING to establish a firm foundation for common action to promote sub-regional cooperation
in the areas of trade, investment, technological exchange and other interrelated areas in a spirit
of equality and partnership and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in their
common region;

CONSCIOUS that in an increasingly interdependent world, the cherished ideals of peace,
freedom, and economic well-being are best attained by fostering greater understanding, good
neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among countries of the same sub-region already
bound together by ties of history and culture;

CONSIDERING that countries share a primary responsibility for strengthening the economic and
social stability of their sub-region and ensuring peaceful and progressive national development;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

FIRST, the establishment of Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation to be
known as the BIST-EC.

SECOND, that the aims and purposes of the BIST-EC shall be:

1. To create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification
   and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the sectors of trade, investment
   and industry, technology, human resource development, tourism, agriculture, energy, and
   infrastructure and transportation.
2. To accelerate the economic growth and social progress in the sub-region through joint
   endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership.
3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in
   the economic, social, technical and scientific fields.
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the
   educational, professional and technical spheres.
5. To cooperate more effectively in joint efforts that are supportive of and complementary to
   national development plans of Member States which result in tangible benefits to the
   people in raising their living standards, including through generating employment and
   improving transportation and communication infrastructure.
6. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
7. To cooperate in projects that can be dealt with most productively on a sub-regional basis among the BIST-EC countries and that make best use of available synergies.

THIRD, the BIST-EC will observe the following principles in all its activities:

(a) Cooperation within the BIST-EC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence and mutual benefit.

(b) Cooperation within the BIST-EC will constitute an additionality to and not be a substitute for bilateral, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.

FOURTH, that to carry out the aims and purposes of the BIST-EC, the following institutional mechanisms shall be established:

(a) Annual Ministerial Meetings, which shall be hosted by the Member States on the basis of alphabetical rotation.

(b) Senior Officials Committee, which shall meet on a regular basis as and when required.

(c) A Working Group, under the chairmanship of Thailand and having as its members the accredited Ambassadors to Thailand, or their representatives, of the other Member States, to carry on the work in between Annual Ministerial Meetings.

(d) Specialized task forces and other mechanisms as may be deemed necessary by the senior Officials to be coordinated by Member States as appropriate.

DONE in Bangkok on the Sixth Day of June in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven.

For the People's Republic of Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of India

H.E. Mr. Saleem Iqbal Shervani
Minister of State

For the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The Honourable D.P. Wickremasinghe
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

For The Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Mr. Pitak Intrawityanunt
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Joint Statement of the BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting – December 1997

A special Ministerial Meeting was convened in Bangkok on 22 December 1997 attended by H.E. Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. A. N. Ram, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India; H.E. U. Nyunt Swe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Union of Myanmar; the Hon. Mr. Lakshman Kiriella, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and H.E. M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, and their respective delegations.

At the conclusion of their Meeting, the Leaders of Delegation issued the following Joint Statement:

We reaffirmed the aims, purposes and principles contained in the Bangkok Declaration of 6 June 1997 on the Establishment of the Bangladesh – India – Sri Lanka – Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC).

We welcomed the Union of Myanmar into the grouping and decided to rename our organization “BIMST-EC” (Bangladesh – India – Myanmar – Sri Lanka – Thailand Economic Cooperation).

We were highly satisfied with the substantive progress that has been made in forging greater understanding and trust among Member States over the past six months. We were confident that BIMST-EC has the potential to be a key building block in the architecture of peace, stability and economic well-being in Asia.

We strongly reaffirmed our intention to work closely together to strengthen various infrastructural linkages between Member States, especially in the transport and communication sectors that would reinforce complementarities arising out of the Bay of Bengal rim identity of BIMST-EC. We expressed our resolve and determination to move the organization expeditiously into an operational phase through the immediate implementation of a range of cooperative projects.

In this connection, we expressed our appreciation to the ESCAP for drawing up a development programme of sectoral cooperation for consideration of BIMST-EC.

On the basis of the ESCAP study, we have agreed to implement immediately an integrated Cooperative Work Programme composed of the following elements:

(i) the establishment of an Economic Forum with the participation of public and private sector representatives to promote economic cooperation among Member States, identify and assist in the implementation of cooperative projects in the fields of trade and investment and infrastructure, and provide a forum for high-level exchange of views between policy makers and the business community;

(ii) the promotion of trade and investment cooperation through the holding of private sector forums in five key sectors, namely textiles and clothing, drugs and pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, horticultural and floricultural products, and information technology products and services with technical support from ESCAP;

(iii) the holding of a senior economic officials meeting to promote intra-regional cooperation on elimination of non-tariff barriers, market access issues, services, and preferential trading arrangements among Member States;

(iv) the cooperation on technology transfer and endogenous capability building;
the reinforcement of transport and communication linkages among Member States through:

- Identification and promotion of new inter-modal linkages within Member States
- Improving efficiency of international land transport in Member States
- Promotion of multi-modal transport practices among Member States
- Study of transport demand and capacity requirements for intra-regional commodity flows with a view to drawing up an action plan to remove any constraints to a potential transport network among Member States.
- Streamlining and reducing costs of transport system through site studies to identify and propose measures for removing present institutional, operational and infrastructure bottlenecks.
- Promotion of international transport along inland waterways;

the enhancement of intra-regional energy cooperation through an action plan for the development and utilization of natural gas, wind, solar and water/tidal wave energy resources. A roundtable would be held in conjunction with ESCAP to evolve this plan.

the establishment of a Working Group on Tourism and the holding of a BIMST-EC Meet on Tourism in 1998 in India to develop an action plan for cooperation in the tourism sector.

The promotion of cooperation in fisheries through the conduct of a comprehensive study on marine resources, processing and marketing, to be conducted in coordination with the FAO.

In the implementation of the above Cooperative Work Programme, we agreed to continue our close cooperation with the ESCAP and to seek to engage interested States who can contribute to the progress of the work programme, and the UNDP, ADB, IBRD/Word Bank and other relevant international organizations in similar collaborative efforts.

In addition to the Cooperative Work Programme, we agreed to pursue the following:

establish intra-regional linkages among central banks, financial institutions and credit agencies and exchange views on macro-economic policies;

cooperation to address and remove obstacles to intra-regional cooperation on transport and communications such as providing transit agreements, relaxation of documentation requirements, support for multi-modal transport operations, and establishment of transportation links;

conclusion of bilateral investment promotion and guarantee agreements and avoidance of double taxation agreements among Member States;
(iv) cooperation among civil aviation authorities and representatives of national airlines of Member States to discuss modalities for expansion of air services through, inter alia, inter-line arrangements, synchronization of schedules, code-sharing, cargo and charter arrangements.

We reiterated the commitment of BIMST-EC to the principle of open regionalism and reaffirm that this would be emphasized through dialogue with non-Member States, other regional groupings and international organizations that share similar aims and principles.

In order to allow for a requisite period of consolidation to permit the expeditious implementation of the Cooperative Work Programme, we have agreed on a five-year moratorium on the consideration of application for new membership. We also agreed that a geographical definition focused on the Bay of Bengal rim would be one of the key criteria for full membership. Observers and guests would be invited to attend appropriate meetings and participate in various BIMST-EC activities. The criteria for such participation will be drawn up.

On behalf of the Member States of BIMST-EC, we underlined the importance of Asian solidarity, enhanced South-South cooperation, and coordination among developing countries in the face of challenges that are being posed by the globalization of international trading and financial systems. We reiterated the call for the major economies of the G-7 to assume a proportionate role in restoring stability to the financial situation in Asia, which could potentially have wider adverse consequences for the international economic system.

We look forward to the next Ministerial Meeting of BIMST-EC which will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in the second half of 1998.
BIMST-EC Summit Declaration  
Bangkok, 31 July 2004

We, the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minster of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, The Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Thailand gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 July 2004 for the first BIMST-EC Summit Meeting;

Convinced that the geographical location if our countries and our rich natural and human resources provide a sound basis for mutually beneficial cooperation,

Recognizing that the pluralistic nature of our societies, our shared cultural heritage and the rich diversity of languages, arts, crafts and traditions provide ample opportunity for multi-dimensional cooperation within our region;

Convinced that regional and sub-regional economic cooperation such as ours contribute to efforts towards global free and fair trade being pursued under the multilateral trading regime,

Affirming that the above realities provide a firm foundation on which to build our partnership and overall cooperation;

Resolving to foster a sense of community that will lead to the economic and social development of the entire region;

Do hereby:

Agree that our grouping shall henceforth be known as BIMST-EC of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

Commit ourselves to the founding objectives and principles of BIMST-EC; to assess the challenges and opportunities for economic cooperation in our region; and to strengthen BIMST-EC’s ability to find ways and means to realize those challenges and opportunities effectively and efficiency.

Note with satisfaction BIMST-EC’s achievements so far, including the signing of the Framework Agreement for a BIMST-EC Free Trade Area, the launch of Visit BIMST-EC Year 2004-2005 and the year-long Plan of Action on tourism, the establishment of the BIMST-EC Chamber of Commerce, the first BIMST-EC Youth Football Tournament held in Phuket, the establishment of the BIMST-EC Center in Bangkok, and a biomass gasifier plant Myanmar, and pledge to move forward with renewed vigor.

Agree to focus on specific areas of cooperation, including but not limited to trade & investment, transport & communications, tourism, energy, human resources development, agriculture, fisheries, science & technology and people-to-people contact.

Agree to explore the expansion of BIMST-EC Cooperation into the areas of culture, education, and public health, protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, rural community development, small and medium-scale enterprise, construction, environment, information and communications technology, biotechnology, weather & climate research, natural disaster mitigation & management.

Agree to take all possible steps including timely completion of the Free Trade Area negotiations for realization of the full potential of BIMST-EC trade and investment, taking into account the special needs of individual member countries.
Recognize that future cooperation under BIMST-EC requires the development of key infrastructure, in particular transportation & communication linkages, to facilitate tourism, trade and investment and accordingly agree to strengthen and accelerate cooperation for developing concrete regional project proposals such as the ongoing negotiations on road linkages between the member countries.

Agree to promote sustainable and optimal energy utilization through development of new hydrocarbon and hydropower projects, interconnection of electricity and natural gas grids, energy technologies.

Agree to coordinate our diverse strengths in the tourism sector to derive maximum benefit from our natural, cultural and historical attractions, and recognize the need to enhance inter-regional tourism through such strategies as joint marketing of intra-BIMSTEC tourism packages, exchange of visits and information as well as sub-regional tourism co-operation.

Agree to facilitate travel within the region for business travel, exchange programmes and tourism, including through the introduction of a BIMSTEC Business Travel Card/Visa.

Encourage the private sector to explore ways to tap the economic partnership potential of the member economies and make full use of BIMSTEC opportunities.

Agree to intensify cooperation to promote the sustainable use of the marine resources in the Bay of Bengal through effective management and conservation in close coordination with the already existing frameworks, including the Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

Agree to enhance technical cooperation aimed at capacity building, and recognize the potential for public and private organizations to expand existing cooperation in this area.

Express grave concern at the continuing threat of international terrorism and transnational crime that has adversely affected the economic and social progress of the peoples of the BIMSTEC region; recognize that the solidarity and friendship existing among member states could be utilized as a basis to counter this threat; agree, as an urgent priority, to co-ordinate our efforts to combat this menace; including through the exchange of information among concerned agencies, and other concrete programmes of co-operation, and resolve to continue active co-operation in ongoing efforts of the international community in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whosoever it is perpetrated irrespective of its cause or stated rationale.

Agree to coordinate our efforts to address, as a matter of priority, transactional issues that threaten the economic and social progress of peoples of the BIMSTEC region, including HIV/Aids and other threats to public health such as malaria, tuberculosis, and polio; and encourage active cooperation among concerned agencies, including through the exchange of information, sharing of experiences and other concrete programmes.

Decide to proactively promote increased interaction among our peoples through programmes, such as exchanges of parliamentarians, media persons, students and faculty, sports persons, as well as exchanges in the fields of performing arts and entertainment, such as motion pictures, television programmes and music.

Decide to accord priority to projects that could be clearly conceptualized, adequately funded and effectively implemented, with well-defined goals and tangible results relevant to the needs of our peoples, based, as far as possible, on internal financing from within the BIMSTEC countries.

Agree to streamline procedures and protocols to make BIMSTEC more efficient and output-based.
Agree that once a clear and focused programme of cooperation is in place, appropriate formal institutional mechanisms would be established, jointly and within each member country, for effective coordination and implementation.

Agree to task their Foreign Ministers with the responsibility of coordinating overall BIMSTEC cooperation.

We express our gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Summit.
BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BIMSTEC

Second BIMSTEC Summit Declaration

We, the Chief Adviser of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand met in New Delhi, India on November 13, 2008 for the Second BIMSTEC Summit Meeting;

Recognising that with our geographical contiguity, abundant natural and human resources as well as rich historical and cultural heritage, BIMSTEC Member States have great potential for economic and social development which provides a sound basis for mutually beneficial cooperation,

Acknowledging that our economies and societies have become increasingly inter-linked and inter-dependent,

Realizing that globalization has brought about increased opportunity for economic and social development, and that increasing complexity of economic,
social and environmental challenges facing the world highlights the need for concerted regional efforts to respond to these challenges,

**Noting** the progress made in promoting and strengthening active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields for attaining the purposes and objectives of BIMSTEC,

**Recognizing** that the recent extraordinary volatility in fuel and food prices not only puts our resources and growth prospects under pressure, but also hits hardest the poorest sections of our population calling for timely and effective responses,

**Recognising** the adverse impact of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of our populations and the serious threat it poses to our region,

**Convinced** that through our close cooperation we can maximize the potential of our capabilities and resource endowments for economic and social development of our states and peoples,

**Recognising** the threat that terrorism poses to peace, stability and economic progress in the region, emphasise the need for close cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism and transnational crimes,

**Reiterating** our commitment to BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation grouping,

**Do hereby:-**

Underscore our resolve to abide by the founding objectives and principles of BIMSTEC.
Take note with satisfaction of the progress of our cooperation in the energy sector and in the establishment of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in India.

Take note with satisfaction of the progress and substantive outcome of our cooperation in the environment and disaster management sector and in the establishment of the BIMSTEC Weather and Climate Centre in India.

Take note with satisfaction of the progress made in the establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission and the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory in Bhutan.

Take note with satisfaction of the finalization of the BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

Take note with satisfaction of the progress made on the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade in Goods with agreed General Rules of Origin and Product Specific Rules under the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

Direct the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee to conclude the negotiations on Trade in Goods as soon as possible, and to continue its efforts for Agreements on Services and Investments.

Agree that improved transportation and communication linkages and greater connectivity between our Member States is an important element for the BIMSTEC process that will lead to direct benefits to our peoples through increased trade and investment, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. In this regard, we acknowledge and note the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) conducted by the ADB in association with the BIMSTEC Member States as an important first step in identifying the bottlenecks and suggesting ways to overcome them.
Agree to harness the region’s natural, cultural and historical endowments in order to enhance intra-BIMSTEC tourism as well as tourism from other countries.

Agree to continue our cooperation in the area of energy and decide to hold the second BIMSTEC Energy Ministers’ Conference in Thailand in 2009.

Agree to cooperate in expanding the technology base of Member States through collaborations and partnerships targeted towards micro, small and medium scale enterprises and decide to establish a BIMSTEC Technology Transfer/Exchange Facility in Sri Lanka.

Agree to continue cooperation for the sustainable use of marine resources through effective conservation and management of resources in the Bay of Bengal and decide to include inland fisheries in the scope of cooperation in this area.

Agree to continue and strengthen our cooperation on poverty alleviation in the context of ensuring food security for the vulnerable people in the region and decide to hold the second BIMSTEC Ministerial Conference on Poverty Alleviation in Nepal in 2009 and to establish a BIMSTEC Poverty Alleviation Centre in Bangladesh.

Agree to expand cooperation in culture to include cultural values, diversity and heritage and decide to support the establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory in Bhutan.

Agree to continue cooperation in the field of agriculture and decide to initiate short and long term joint research programmes to increase productivity and yields in our region.
Agree to continue our collective efforts to combat public health threats from emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases as well as to cooperate in the area of traditional medicine by setting up a BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in Traditional Medicine.

Agree to augment our efforts to further promote people-to-people contacts among our States and decide that India will take the lead to establish a BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks.

Agree to share experience and enhance collaborative efforts to jointly face the current global financial crisis, while taking into account the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society.

Agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen cooperation in all areas of activities within the framework of BIMSTEC so as to promote regional cooperation and cohesion.

Agree to establish an institutional structure to serve as a focal point for coordination and to follow up on decisions taken by BIMSTEC Summits, Ministerial Conferences and other official meetings, and decide to establish a Permanent Secretariat for BIMSTEC.

We, the leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, express our appreciation to the Government of India for its hospitality and for the arrangements made for the Summit.

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Third BIMSTEC Summit Declaration

We, the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand met in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 4 March 2014 for the Third BIMSTEC Summit Meeting;

Reaffirming the aims and purposes of BIMSTEC as contained in the 1997 Bangkok Declaration,

Recalling the First BIMSTEC Summit Declaration (Bangkok, 31 July 2004) and the Second Summit Declaration (New Delhi, 13 November 2008),

Recognizing the close relationship and deepening engagements among the BIMSTEC Member States given the geographical proximity as well as the rich historical linkages and cultural heritage,

Convinced that the BIMSTEC Member States, endowed with abundant natural and human resources, have considerable potential for economic and social development through mutually beneficial cooperation in identified priority areas,

Recognizing that globalization and regional cooperation continue to generate increased linkages and inter-dependence within the economies and societies in the BIMSTEC Member States and provide greater opportunity to further leverage regional cooperation and respond to new and emerging challenges,

Recognizing the threats posed by climate change on the lives and livelihoods of peoples across the Member States,

Reiterating firm commitment to alleviate poverty in the BIMSTEC region to ensure dignity, improve the quality of life and well-being of the peoples,

Recognizing the threat that terrorism poses to peace, stability and economic progress in the region, and emphasizing the need for closer cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism and transnational crimes,

Further recognizing the special challenges faced by the Least-Developed Member States in the region and the need to support them within their development process,

Convinced also that harmony, prosperity and well-being among the BIMSTEC Member States can be enhanced through deeper economic and social cooperation, enhanced connectivity, sustainable
development and harnessing of common natural resource base and cultural and people-to-people linkages,

**Reiterating** commitment to BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation group,

**Do hereby:**

Resolve to commit increased efforts in accomplishing the founding aims and purposes of BIMSTEC.

Decide to move forward towards finalization of the draft Agreement on Trade in Goods with agreed General Rules of Origin and Product Specific Rules, and also to signing of the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Procedures, and the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters under the Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

Direct the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to expedite its work for the conclusion of the Agreement on Trade in Goods by the end of 2014, and to continue its efforts for early finalization of the Agreement on Services and Investments.

Agree to enhance cooperation in expanding skill and technology base of Member States through collaborations and partnerships targeted towards micro, small and medium scale enterprises and decide to accelerate efforts for the early finalization of the Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.

Underline the need for enhancing regional cooperation in the energy sector, welcome the holding of the Third BIMSTEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in Nepal in 2014 and also the Fourth BIMSTEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in Bhutan in 2015, and recognize the role of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, India in this context.

Express satisfaction at the continuing work on developing physical connectivity in BIMSTEC region and the progress made in updating the BTILS supported by the Asian Development Bank for enhancement of intraregional connectivity, transport infrastructure and logistics, and welcome efforts to identify concrete projects for implementation.

Express satisfaction at the progress made in implementing tourism cooperation programmes and in following up the Plan of Action on Tourism; and encourage the Member States realize the enormous tourism potential of the region by enhancing cooperation in this field, particularly through facilitating engagements among the private sector in the Member States.

Resolve to continue cooperation in the area of fisheries, including inland fisheries, and conservation and management and sustainable use of marine resources in the Bay of Bengal region.

Reiterate our commitment to continue and enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture, including crops, livestock and horticulture; and decide to intensify cooperative efforts by materializing short and long term joint research programmes towards increased productivity and yields of agricultural produce in the region.

Resolve to enhance cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development and promote capacity building in the area of disaster management.

Recognize that deepening of cultural cooperation among the Member States can also contribute towards the promotion of socio-economic development of the region driven by cultural industries.
Agree to enhance cooperation in the health sector, including on traditional medicine, and to intensify our efforts to promote activities of the BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in traditional medicine.

Reiterate our commitment to expand efforts to further promote people-to-people exchanges and linkages, at various levels among the BIMSTEC Member States, including facilitating travels through the BIMSTEC Business Visa Scheme and the BIMSTEC Visa Exemption Scheme.

Welcome the setting up of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks and agree to cooperate and coordinate for organizing short-term activities such as workshops, seminars, and exchange programmes, including audio visual programmes, on building public awareness on BIMSTEC.

Agree to implement the BIMSTEC Poverty Plan of Action adopted at the second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation held in January 2012 in Nepal, and welcome the offer by Sri Lanka to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation during the first half of 2014.

Express satisfaction at the close cooperation between law enforcement agencies of Member States in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, call for expediting the ratification for entry into force of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking and also for the early signing of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Agree to explore collaborative initiatives amongst the Member States towards addressing the adverse impacts of climate change in the BIMSTEC region.

Agree to intensify efforts to deepen cooperation in all areas of activities within the framework of BIMSTEC, including strengthening institutional mechanisms.

Welcome the signing of the following BIMSTEC Instruments:

a. Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat.

b. Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO).

c. Memorandum of Association Among BIMSTEC Member Countries Concerning Establishment of a BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate.

Convey appreciation to the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for providing the premises for the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and also express satisfaction at the progress made towards the operationalization of the Secretariat.

Welcome the appointment of Mr. Sumith Nakandala of Sri Lanka as the first Secretary General of BIMSTEC.

Convey deep appreciation to Myanmar for the able stewardship of BIMSTEC from 2009, and welcome Nepal as the new Chair of BIMSTEC.

We, the leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Thailand, express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit.

4 March 2014
Nay Pyi Taw.