D-8 Trade, Industry and Investment to be Boosted: Ministers

D-8 Trade Ministers announced 1 July 2016 for implementation of the D-8 PTA

D-8 Industry Ministers encourage planning, coordination and implementation of common projects
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Foreword

I cordially welcome you to the fifth edition of the D-8 Journal. This edition covers events during the period between August 2015 and December 2016.

During this period, the Secretariat was heavily engaged with multifarious activities and events aimed at achieving the goals and objectives set in the D-8 Global Vision and D-8 Roadmap.

We held a number of important Ministerial and Senior Official Meetings along with various technical level meetings in our areas of cooperation throughout the year. During this period, we successfully held 2nd D-8 Trade Ministers Council in Islamabad and D-8 Trade Ministers announced 1st July 2016 as the new date for implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). This landmark decision will consolidate D-8 cooperation on trade front and help to achieve intra-trade target of US$ 500 billion set by its leadership.

We also successfully held 5th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Egypt whereby D-8 Industry Ministers agreed to develop the strategic Plan on D-8 Industrial Cooperation as a guide to adopt and implement tailor-made programs which will contribute to the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda of D-8 and endorsed project ideas on “Promoting Cooperation between Innovation Clusters and Alliances in D-8 Member States.”

The second phase of the Organization will be a turning point that will move our common agenda forward in a manner commensurate with the requirements for developments and the pace of change taking place within individual Member States and the Organization as a whole. With constructive engagement and determination by our Member Countries, D-8 will continue to march toward consolidating the development cooperation for improving the life and living condition of our people.

The year 2017 will mark a new phase for D-8 Organization, having the 9th D-8 Summit ahead of us, to be held in Turkey, which will be the most significant event of this year and a turning point for our Organization in which Turkey would chair the Organization for the second time after 18 years in its new life-cycle.

You will find several news and pictures of D-8 activities in this edition but for further information, you may visit our website to get detailed information on the activities being pursued by the Organization. Should you require more information related to the Organization and its activities, please feel free to contact us.

Seyed AliMohammad MOUSAVI
Secretary - General
The second special session of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the 71st session of the UNGA on 23 September 2016 in New York. The session was arranged primarily to discuss two important issues of holding the 9th D-8 Summit and appointment of the next Secretary-General of D-8.

The Council reaffirmed the principle of rotation for holding the 9th Summit in Turkey in 2017. The Council also confirmed the recommendation of the D-8 Commissioners to delink the age limit of 60 years from the appointment of the Secretary-General by amending Article 20 of the Staff Regulations. Consequently, the Council endorsed the D-8 Commissioners’ other recommendations for the appointment of Mr. Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the candidate of Malaysia as the next Secretary-General of D-8. It was also approved that the incumbent Secretary-General by amending Article 20 (e) of the Staff Regulations in order to exclude the provision of upper age limit for the D-8 Secretary-General. The Council proposed and adopted the amendment on the Article 20 (e) of the Staff Regulations in order to exclude the provision of upper age limit for the D-8 Secretary-General.

In his statement, the D-8 Secretary-General Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi pointed out that the organization had been undergoing a critical period and urged Member States to rethink about the direction that the organization was heading to. He also stressed the need to address uncertainty in the Principal Organs, which was affecting sectoral cooperation due to lack of spirit from the Member States.

In this statement, the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Sartaj Aziz stressed the importance to remember the core objective of the D-8 and urged for collective efforts on the economic development agenda. In this regard, he especially highlighted significant progress towards the implementation of the PTA. He also elaborated on D-8’s Observer Status at the UNGA.

Council Outcomes

- The Council reaffirmed the consensus of the Commission on the principle of rotation as stipulated in the Charter and practice of following alphabetical order as well as commitment of the Republic of Turkey as per the Islamabad Declaration to hold the 9th Summit in 2014.
- Republic of Turkey would convey to the Secretariat the details on the 9th D-8 Summit, i.e. date and venue, within the next 1 (one) or 2 (two) months.
- The Council endorsed the appointment of H.E. Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Malaysian candidate for the post of D-8 Secretary-General and proposed his candidature for final approval and appointment by the next Summit. The next Secretary-General would assume office after the next Summit.
- The Council approved amendment in Article 20 (e) of the Staff Regulations as proposed by the Commission in order to exclude the provision of upper age limit for the D-8 Secretary-General.
- The Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission for the continuation in office of the incumbent Secretary-General until the 9th Summit to be held in Turkey in early 2017.

Outcomes

- The Commission discussed the meetings of Principal Organs, in particular the 9th Summit. The Commission agreed that the next Summit will be held by Turkey according to the principle of rotation as stipulated in the Charter and practice of following alphabetical order as well as commitment of the Republic of Turkey as per the Islamabad Declaration in December 2012.
- The Commission proposed and adopted the amendment on the Article 20 (e) of the Staff Regulations in order to exclude the provision of upper age limit for the D-8 Secretary-General.
- The Commission approved the appointment of H.E. Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Malaysian candidate for the post of D-8 Secretary-General and proposed his candidature for final approval and appointment by the next Summit. The next Secretary-General would assume office after the next Summit. The Commission also approved the continuation in office of the incumbent Secretary-General until the 9th Summit to be held in Turkey in early 2017.
- During the Commission sessions, the external relations of the Organization were reviewed and updated.
- Calendar of Events for years 2016 and 2017 was discussed and endorsed by the Commission.
- Sessions of the D-8 Commission were held in Istanbul under the Chairmanship of Pakistan held on 10-11 October 2015, 16-17 April 2016 and 6-7 September 2016, respectively.

Session of the D-8 Commission 2015-2016, Istanbul
Special session of D-8 Commission, 10-11 October 2015

37th regular session of the D-8 Commission, 16-17 April 2016

D-8 Intra Trade (1997-2015), Billion USD
Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted the 4th meeting of the D-8 Supervisory Committee on PTA and 2nd meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in Islamabad from 16-17 February 2016. The meeting discussed inter alia, implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement signed in 2006, tariff reduction by members of the bloc, dispute settlement mechanisms and reviewed progress so far made to consolidate D-8 cooperation on trade front and achieve intra-trade target of US$ 500 billion set by its leadership. The meeting deliberated upon the status of a Preferential Trade Agreement among contracting parties, review provisions of the Rules of Origin and Bangladesh’s proposal to have 30 percent local value-addition criteria for the least developed countries (LDCs) as agreed amongst Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). 

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, said that cooperation between D-8 governments, agencies, and private sectors in realizing the D-8 intra-trade of US$500 billion by 2018 will reach a new height. He underscored that through beneficial cooperation and flexibility in the course of deliberations, the organization succeeded in reaping the fruits of our endeavors. He highlighted important developments so far recorded and more important steps to be taken in the meeting. He hoped that Islamabad Declaration of D-8 Trade Ministers will not only add momentum to the trade cooperation, it will also set forth strategic action plan with a time frame for achievement of our short-, medium- and long-run objectives and targets. He added that the most important challenge as well as opportunity ahead of the organization was fulfillment of intra-trade target of US$ 500 billion which will not only establish a strong network of economic actors but also will contribute to the betterment of life and living conditions of our people in the region. For this, he stressed the importance of active and effective collaboration between D-8 governments, agencies, and private sectors.

Since its establishment in 1997, the D-8 intra-trade volume has increased steadily, registering a growth of 16.6% from US$20 billion in 1997 to US$120 billion in 2014. The highest level was recorded in 2012, reaching almost US$150 billion. However, the D-8 intra-trade experienced a decline in 2013 and 2014 to US$133 billion and US$122 billion respectively.

Revised PTA Schedule

- Implementation date of PTA agreed on 1st July 2016
- Members to complete their internal procedure before 01 July 2016
- Members to expedite gazette notification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement at the national level
- Member States to consider expanding Revised Offer Lists so that private sector finds incentive in trading
- Holding Special session of the Supervisory Committee under the chairmanship of Pakistan in May 2016 in Istanbul to finalize draft Dispute Settlement document and discuss Bangladesh’s proposal regarding 30% local value addition criterion for LDCs
- Submission by Bangladesh a concept paper in support of their proposal for 30% local value addition criterion for LDCs by mid-March 2016
- Holding of Customs working group meeting in Pakistan to discuss and expedite Rules of Origin issues; and
- 3rd Trade Ministers’ Council (TMC) and 5th Supervisory Committee (SC) meeting in 2017 in Malaysia.
The first conference of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry commenced on 01 September 2015 till 02 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This first ever initiative of D-8 private sector congregation was organized by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM).

Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, attended the two-day gathering and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Malaysia and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) for their timely initiative and efforts in hosting the meeting. Dr. Mousavi also appreciated the efforts of the D-8 Members States for their enthusiastic attendance and constructive contributions.

According to the Secretary-General, the gathering of D-8 business leaders of private sector in order to foster trade and investment. It is also discussed collective measures for trade facilitation and tapping into the potentials. Economic prosperity is central to the discussions which stimulate job creation, technological progress and innovation. Discussions were also held on economic diversification, specialization and competitiveness of SMEs to become part of value chains and benefit from trade linkages.

The D-8 Secretary-General also emphasized the need for trade openness and capital account convertibility for favourable investment. He hoped that the private sector meeting would be held every year in and in every capital of the D-8 Member States on the principle of rotation. He also underscored the need for private sector to lay out framework and mechanism towards enhancing future cooperation.

Special Session Outcomes

- The Supervisory Committee agreed to develop a dispute settlement mechanism.
- Indonesia would prepare the first draft of the protocol and send it to the D-8 Secretariat by 30th June 2016. The Secretariat would transmit the document to the Member States for their feedback by 31st August 2016 which would be compiled for discussion in the upcoming regular session of the Supervisory Committee.
- The Committee recognized the cause of Bangladesh and took note of the SMKT for the LDCs. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed in the upcoming regular session of the Supervisory Committee. The Committee also noted that Egypt made comments on the Concept Paper presented by Bangladesh and would submit the comments to the Secretariat by 8th June 2016.

Supervisory Committee Special Session

30-31 May 2016, Istanbul

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Private Sector

Presidents of the D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 FCCI) met on 24 December 2015 in Ankara for the second time after their first meeting in Kuala Lumpur this year.

Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, addressed the D-8 FCCI Presidents’ meeting. He highlighted the importance of the meeting for achievement of D-8 intra-trade target of USD 500 billion in 2018. The Secretary-General also noted that the D-8 FCCI would promote and strengthen private sector involvement and cooperation. To achieve this objective, new and additional mechanisms should be created to further enhance collaboration among the private sector of the D-8.

Dr. Mousavi highlighted that during the last Eminent Persons Group (EPG) meeting held on 8-9 September 2014, in Istanbul, the EPG members proposed the establishment of “D-8 Business Council” comprising government and private sector representatives to institutionalize and consolidate private sector cooperation. The Business Council should be an effective interface between the governments and the private sectors. Thus, the already established D-8 FCCI can also be linked or merged with the Business Council.

Dr. Mousavi mentioned that D-8 Business Forum will be held in the sideline of upcoming 9th Summit, the Leaders’ meeting. At the 9th Summit, the Organization is working on a new mandate to enhance sectoral cooperation as well as increase the involvement of the private sector by increasing frequency of meetings of the Business Forum. Dr. Mousavi also hoped that the draft D-8 FCCI Charter would be finalized before the 9th Summit.

The Izmir Chamber of Commerce hosted the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry Izmir Meeting in Izmir, Turkey from 20-21 October 2016. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry from major cities of the D-8 Member States.

Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, in his opening address commended the initiative of Izmir Chamber of Commerce in organizing the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry Izmir Meeting in Izmir, Turkey. He mentioned that Chambers of Commerce from major cities of the Member States would have the opportunity of enhancing their networking as well as fostering new business deals not only at the national level but also at the city and provincial level.

Dr. Mousavi highlighted the important role of the public and private sector partnership in moving forward the common agenda of the D-8 and stressed that the synergy of the public-private sector collaboration should be further exploited. He explained that the D-8 Member States have endeavored to create the necessary infrastructure for trade to prosper such as business-friendly policies and attractive investment incentives in order to promote and facilitate private sector in doing business. Dr. Mousavi added that it would be inspiring to see the private sector working hand in hand with the Member States and take the lead from the various initiatives being instituted by the Member States.

The two-day meeting included sharing of information on activities being carried out by each participating Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as exchange of experience on ways and means to increase cooperation and flow of trade between participating cities and Member States.

Private Sector Meeting’s Outcomes

- Improvement of business environment notably through reforms and reduction of administrative procrastination and reduction of layers.
- Creation of a transparent and open regime for both domestic and foreign investors.
- Facilitation for access to finance mainly for the SMEs and development in innovative and creative industries.
- Upgrading the human resource expertise and skills.
- Strengthening market institutions and good economic governance.
D-8 Trade Fact and Figures

From 1997 to 2015, both the extra and the intra D-8 trade had been on a constant surge. Trade diversification, technological advancements, higher economic growth, stronger transportation linkages have all played part in this progress in due time. Total exports of D-8 member states which accounted for 210 billion dollars in 1997 more than tripled and reached 693 billion dollars in 2015. The average annual growth rate of exports had been an average of 6.9% in this period.

This upsurge had been halted with the souring of global economic conditions. The year 1998 was marked by the repercussions of the Asian financial crisis, 2009 was a global downturn and 2015 witnessed the plummeting of oil and non-oil commodity prices, all resulting in drastic declines in the nominal exports. Volume of exports, which represents the quantitative changes of exports on the other hand, had been on an almost uninterrupted rise between 1997-2015. This indicates that when filtered from the price effects, D-8 members managed to increase their export quantity continuously; 5.6% on average annually. It is clear that if it wasn’t for the fall in oil and non-oil commodity prices and the Euro/Dollar parity in 2015, nominal exports would have been much higher, given the trend and the increase in real exports. IMF expects this upward trend to continue in the period 2016-2021.

Of the 210 billion dollars of exports made in 1997, with 78.9 billion dollars and 38% share, Malaysia came the first. It was followed by Indonesia and Turkey. In 2015 the ranking did not change but Iran and Turkey managed to make a leap in terms of export share.
The above figure showed that from 7.3 billion dollars in 1997, the organization’s exports surged to 47.6 billion dollars in 2015 with an annual average growth rate of 11%. The peak, was realized in 2012 at 69 billion dollars.

D-8 Exports by Product, billion US$, 2015

Like exports, D-8 member countries’ imports were on a constant surge from 1997 to 2015. With swelling growth figures and growing demand for intermediate products and consumer goods total imports of the region which accounted for 224 billion dollars in 2015 almost quadrupled and increased to 845 billion dollars in 2015. The average annual growth rate of imports was realized as 7.7%.


Of the 224 billion dollars of imports made in 1997, with 79.1 billion dollars and 35% share, Malaysia came the first. It was followed by Turkey and Indonesia. In 2015, Turkey became the highest importer of the region with 207 billion dollars. It was followed by Malaysia and Indonesia.

From 429 billion dollars in 1997 total trade volume almost quadrupled and reached 1 trillion 583 billion dollars in 2015. Through the period 1997-2015 the average annual growth rate of trade volume realized as 7.5%. Trade volume peaked in 2014 with 1 trillion 825 billion dollars, 966.3 billion dollars of which is import and 858.4 billion dollars’ accounted for export.
From 7.7 billion dollars in 1997, merchandise imports reached 52 billion dollars with an astonishing 11.2% average annual growth.

In the year 1997, the average share of fuels in total D-8 exports was 32.8% on average whereas the share of manufactured goods was 52.4%. These two items together made up almost 85% of total D-8 exports. In the year 2015, the share of manufactured goods increased slightly whereas the share of fuel dropped to 27.6%. On the imports side, the share of fuels rose from 7.2% in 1997 to 12.6% in 2015. There had been a slight drop in the share of imported manufactured goods from 69.3% in 1997 to 63.2% in 2015. (Remark: When taking regional averages, 2015 figures for Bangladesh, Iran and Nigeria are extrapolated from latest available data.)
5th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt on 9-11 May 2016 was graced by Mr. Sherif Ismail, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, during the closing ceremony on 11th May. The meeting was presided over by Engr. Tarek Kabil, Minister of Trade and Industry of Egypt.

The 5th meeting took place after about a year since the last meeting in Tehran. Industry Ministers of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Turkey, Deputy Minister of Iran and State Minister of Nigeria were, among others, attending the event. The 3-day meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt was attended by government and private sector officials as well as international organizations.

The Ministerial Plenary adopted the Cairo Declaration whereby D-8 Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment to the cause of D-8 Cooperation and endorsed project ideas on “Promoting Cooperation between Innovation Clusters and Alliances in D-8 Member States”, SMEs capacity building, green SMEs and women empowerment and youth leadership development. It was also agreed that a new Task Force namely, Task Force on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment would be established to expand cooperation.

The Cairo Declaration also tasked the organization to draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Task Forces.

Earlier, industry meetings developed policies and mechanisms with a view to utilizing existing as well as potential capacities and put together collective effort for industrial development in the Member States. The 5th meeting revisited earlier decisions and reviewed the outcome so far achieved as well as considered restructuring the framework of mechanism, including redistributing the Working Group and Task Forces, within the broad spectrum of D-8 cooperation. Discussing of projects and/or programmes in order to implement the policies into actions was also on the high agenda. The D-8 Ministers also discussed the Vision and Action Plan for the industrial cooperation among the D-8 Member States, Terms of Reference (ToR) of all Task Forces on Industrial Cooperation, implementation of programme and common projects, pragmatic approach to move in the direction of expanding industrial and technological cooperation, policies and measures towards increasing industrial and market opportunities as well as financial resources etc.

In his address, Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, said that the meeting of D-8 Industry Ministers is of pivotal importance ahead of the 9th D-8 Summit scheduled for 5th December 2016 in Iran. This meeting would provide an opportunity for the Ministers to prepare their strategy paper for consideration of D-8 leadership. He also noted that despite the success that has been achieved so far, the Organization must not be complacent as there are still many more goals to accomplish. He added that it was important for constant review of the progress and be responsive to the need of our stakeholders.


It should be mentioned that industry has been identified as one of the five priority areas of D-8 cooperation. So far, five meetings of D-8 industry ministers have been held in Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran (twice) and Turkey.
Outcomes

- Decision made to expedite the process of establishment of D-8 Glass and Ceramic, Automotive and Textile and Garments Association and Iron and Steel Union among D-8 Member States;
- ‘To make cotton based production chain between D-8 countries duty free and quota free market within D-8 will be examined to get benefit of low cost quality garments products;
- Decision made to develop the strategic Plan on D-8 Industrial Cooperation as a guide to adopt and implement tailor-made programs which contribute to the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda of D-8;
- Simplifying procedures to certify halal products & standardizing all procedures & regulations within all D-8 countries;
- A new Task Force on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment has been established
- Turkish Standard Institute representative submitted proposal of mentioned draft strategy plan to be circulated among D-8 Members States for further discussion.
- Establishment of website for SMEs in D-8 countries which will help in organizing business matchmaking, exchanging information and data, identifying business opportunities and coordinating SME governmental bodies activities in D-8 countries;
- Integration between the D-8 TTEN Web platform and the platform developed by Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey (www.d8coop.com) is vital for ensuring better cooperation between D-8 Member States, and there should be direct communication between the Secretariats responsible for the management of the two platforms for this purpose.
- A new project that aims at "Promoting Cooperation between Innovation Clusters and Alliances in D-8 Member States" through fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices between those clusters based on the idea of the Cluster Development project would be explored.

Dr. Mousavi underscored that visible activities must be put in place to accelerate achievement of TTEN objectives. He encouraged more interaction and activities on the part of D-8 TTEN and the Focal Points in the D-8 Member States in strengthening this platform into a truly attractive forum for fruitful exchanges. He called all the parties to lend their efforts in making this a forerunner and flagship platform of the D-8 Organization. He hoped the meeting would review progress so far made and accordingly adopt policies and programmes that integrate the elements of capacity building, information and knowledge into comprehensive approaches for TTEN cooperation.

This meeting is sequel to the first and second meeting of the D-8 TTEN, which were successfully held in October 2013 in Tehran and in December 2014 in Abuja, respectively. In the first meeting, the delegates put their effort to lay a tangible foundation for D-8 TTEN cooperation, including the inauguration of D-8 TTEN Secretariat based in Pardis Technology Park in Tehran as well as the D-8 TTEN website. The 2nd meeting reviewed progress in decisions taken earlier, made strategic assessment, analysis and reviewed the state of D-8 TTEN cooperation, with particular emphasis on the identification of technology requests and technology offers from the D-8 Member States in order to inter-connect or develop database for technology products, technology services, technology demands, and commercialized technology of the D-8 Member States in an integrated internet-based system. The meeting underscored the primary need to operationalize the TTEN website in order to implement the virtual interface among the public and private entities both within and outside the D-8 member States.

The 2-day program included discussion, among others, on steps for sharing of experiences and practices, Challenges and Discussions of Scientific and Technological Capabilities of D-8 Member Countries, devising efficacious and action-oriented strategies, institutional visits etc. Delegates visited Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM), Technology Park Malaysia and MIMOS in the Technology Park as part of the program.

This timely initiative of the Government of Malaysia, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in particular, would help the D-8 attain its development objectives by strengthening joint efforts.
National Technomart of Iran Network hosted the 1st Technology Transfer Workshop for D-8 Member Countries in Tehran. Pardis Technology Park which hosts the D-8 TTEN Secretariat organized the four-day event for D-8 TTEN focal points as per the Executive Plan-2016 announced in 3rd High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN held in December 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Focal points and participants from D-8 Member States attended the workshop.

Deputy Minister of Science and Technology of Iran, President of Pardis Technology Park and resident D-8 Ambassadors were, among others, present at the opening ceremony organized in Persian Isteghlal International Hotel in Tehran. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, addressed the opening ceremony.

Dr. Mousavi appreciated the National Technomart of Iran Network as the D-8 TTEN Focal Point in organizing this workshop and thanked the National TTEN focal point of Iran which is Pardis Technology Park, for adequate preparation of the workshop. He hoped that other D-8 Member States would be encouraged to host more seminars, workshops or informative events. He also expressed confidence that this workshop would benefit the participants in enriching their understanding of commercial aspect of technology transfer and thus, facilitate future prospect of enhanced activities in this area.

He noted that with the announcement of the date of 9th D-8 Summit, affiliated bodies such as the D-8 TTEN must prepare activities and programs and organize special events in order to increase visibility and showcase the noble purpose of establishing them. He hoped that the D-8 TTEN and other D-8 Member States.

Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, in his opening address, referred to the Task Force achievements on several practical project proposals since its first meeting in October 2011. He hoped that the Task Force could present itself with more effective and result-oriented outcomes in terms of viable projects for the benefit of all stakeholders in the D-8 Member States.

He added that the meeting has been structured with the aim of addressing issues related to four (4) key sectors namely, Smart Cities, Healthcare, Financial Services and Education through the application of ICT. Through this approach, participants will have the opportunity to share each other’s experiences and formulate possible solutions in addressing common problems and challenges faced by the Member States.

Furthermore, Dr. Mousavi said the meeting also accords special emphasis on private sector participation with specific sessions being organized for policy makers, research institutions and the private sectors. This session can further reinvigorate the public-private partnership initiative which could act as an important platform for the government and private sector to collaborate. Furthermore, a dedicated networking session specifically for the private sector to network has been allocated in this meeting. In this B2B session, the private sector was given the opportunity to exchange ideas and establish networking and are expected to formulate a Cooperation Road Map to further strengthen private sector cooperation in the field of technology among the Member States.
**D-8 TTEN Technology Transfer Award**

D-8 TTEN Technology Transfer Awards were given to the technological companies at a D-8 event in Izmir, Turkey, on Friday, 21st October 2016. The Award initiative was taken by D-8 TTEN Secretariat which identified and screened capable companies. The initiative was announced at the 2nd High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN in Nigeria in 2014.

The process of selecting the best technology transfer for 2015 was launched since the beginning of 2016 by sending application form to all the available private companies through the representatives of D-8 Member States in TTEN. Several contracts were nominated from Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan, Lebanon, UAE and Saudi Arabia as the candidates for the award.

After final evaluation, technology transfer for the development of ARYOSEVEN & ALTEBREL as biosimilar products between ARYOGEN PHARMED CO. from Iran and INNO BIO VENTURES SDN BHD from Malaysia were selected as the winner of the Award.

D-8 TTEN Technology Transfer Award is given annually by Pardis Technology Park to the best technology transfer cases between D-8 and OIC member countries. The indicators to evaluate the cases include technology level, financial cost and time trend as assessed by Award Committee in D-8 TTEN Secretariat.

The nomination of the candidates for the 2nd round of the Award will commence in the beginning of 2017.

**Training Program for the web portal www.d8coop.com**

Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey hosted the Training Program for focal points for the web portal www.d8coop.com on 04-05 October 2016 in Ankara, Turkey. The training program was attended by representatives from D-8 Member States. Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Kilicaslan, General Director for industry, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey officially opened the training program. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, said in his message that the scope of D-8 industrial cooperation was diverse across 14 task forces and the efforts were enormous. He appreciated the initiative of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey for developing this web portal and expressed hope that this new initiative would add to the existing online platforms. He wished the event success.

The training program was aimed at familiarizing D-8 focal points with the features of the web portal. The two-day event also provided space for mutual exchange of views and sharing of experiences.
Technology Cooperation Outcomes

- The 3rd TTEN meeting reviewed progress of D-8 TTEN cooperation, with particular emphasis on the identification of technology requests and technology offers from the D-8 Member States in order to inter-connect or develop database for technology products, technology services, technology demands, and commercialized technology of the D-8 Member States in an integrated internet-based system.
- The 3rd TTEN meeting underscored the primary need to operationalize the TTEN website in order to implement the virtual interface among the public and private entities both within and outside the D-8 member States.
- 4th D-8 Task Force on Technology meeting in Ankara, discussed several practical projects related to four (4) key sectors namely, Smart Cities, Healthcare, Financial Services and Education through the application of ICT. Participants shared each other’s experiences and formulate possible solutions in addressing common problems and challenges faced by the Member States.
- D-8coop training programme discussed regarding the features of web portal www.d8coop.com and participants shared their experience and contribute constructively to better improve the functional aspect of the portal.
D-8 Civil Aviation to re-invigorate cooperation in a concerted manner
23-24 May 2016, Cappadocia

Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Turkey hosted the 10th D-8 Directors-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) meeting in Cappadocia, Turkey from 23-24 May 2016. Mr. Bilal Eksi, Director-General of Civil Aviation of Turkey chaired the meeting. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, addressed the meeting and hoped for a more effective and result-oriented meeting outcome.

Dr. Mousavi appreciated DGCA of Turkey for their initiative to take lead in D-8 civil aviation sector. He mentioned that Member States benefitted from sharing their experiences and capacities with one another, especially Turkey that had vibrant and successful airline industry operating round the world. He also mentioned that continuous improvement in aviation was a fundamental criterion to ensuring safe and secure air transport and aviation added to the mobility of not only the people but also the economy.

Dr. Mousavi said that articulation of concrete cooperation and collaboration programs, possible action plan under Task Forces cooperation and increase in exchange of views and information on the current development and possible projects among D-8 Directors-General Civil Aviation should be discussed by the group. He underscored that a comprehensive action plan would not only put the works in a structured manner, but also would help make best use of available resources.

The two-day meeting of Civil Aviation Heads included sharing of experiences and best practices, presentation of each other’s aviation capabilities and challenges, review of progress of task forces on Air Navigation and Air Traffic Management, Safety and Security, Training and Capacity Building and Commercial Issues etc. The Secretary-General also appreciated the DGCA of Turkey for their initiative to include industry participants for private sector engagement and looked forward to a more intensive cooperation between private actors in aviation industry of the D-8.

Civil Aviation Outcomes

- Discussion on the draft Multilateral Air Services Agreement between D-8 States would take place under the Task Force on Commercial Issues and Member States would provide their inputs and feedback to the Secretariat.
- Task Force on Safety and Security will be separated to form Task Force on Security and Task Force on Safety. Task Force on Security will be chaired by Turkey with Pakistan as Co-Chair. Task Force on Safety will be chaired by Malaysia.
- Malaysia will work on harmonization of safety standards under the Task Force on Safety. A questionnaire will be developed in line with EASA regulations as a reference document.
- Turkey will work to develop ’D-8 National Security Auditor Certification Program’ as a common project and liaise with Malaysia in this regard.
- Turkey will organize a workshop on RPAS regulations in September 2016 in Turkey.
- D-8 Secretariat will create an e-forum for continuous discussion on issues under each Task Force. The Secretariat will inform the Member States of the status for the further dissemination among Member States.
- The Secretariat would consult Pakistan and Egypt to ascertain the next Chair as well as venue of the 11th DGCA Meeting in 2017.

DGCA Turkey hosted the D-8 Workshop on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) on 7 October 2016 at the sideline of the Istanbul Airshow 2016. The workshop was organized to share knowledges and experiences on the latest developments in certification, design and manufacturing aspects of RPAS.

Transportation
Civil Aviation
D-8 Transportation Facts and Figures

**Logistics Performance Index:** The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank reflects perceptions of a country’s logistics, based on efficiency of customs clearance process, quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure, ease of arranging competitively priced shipments, quality of logistics services, ability to track and trace consignments, and frequency with which shipments reach the consignee within the scheduled time. The index ranges from 1 to 5, with a higher score representing better performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rank in D-8</th>
<th>LPI Score</th>
<th>Customs</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>International shipments</th>
<th>Logistics competitiveness</th>
<th>Tracking &amp; tracing</th>
<th>Timeliness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt, Arab Rep.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran, Islamic Rep.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.98</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>3.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>2.92</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>2.91</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>3.42</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liner Shipping Connectivity Index:** The Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) of UNCTAD shows countries logistic performance and carrier attractive. It is based on five components of the maritime transport sector: number of ships, their container-carrying capacity, maximum vessel size, number of services, and number of companies that deploy container ships entering country’s ports. Higher LPI and LSCI will facilitate to increase trade volume.

![Figure 1: D-8 Member States Liner shipping connectivity index (LSCI)](image)

Source: World Bank
The above table and figure shows that D-8 countries have agro-based economies, contributing higher amount of GDP and Employment as compared to the world.

**D-8 Countries among the World Top 20 Producers of Agriculture products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Cocoa</th>
<th>Cotton</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Natural Rubber</th>
<th>Palm Oil</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Soybean</th>
<th>Sugar Beet</th>
<th>Tea</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indonesia is the leading exporter of the Agriculture products in D-8 to the world, followed by Malaysia and Turkey.

Indonesia is the largest importer of Agriculture products in D-8 member States, followed by Malaysia and Turkey.
Tourism has also been a major area of success for the D-8 Member States. From 26.7 million tourists and 23.6 billion dollars of tourism receipts in 1997, D-8 moved to a total of 96.2 million tourists and 81.2 billion dollars’ worth of tourism receipts. During the period under review, number of tourists visiting the region increased by 7.8% and the tourism receipts folded by an annual rate of 7.5%.

Turkey successfully hosted the Workshop on Exchange of Information on Rural Tourism Policies between D-8 Countries and the Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) on 13-14 April 2016 in Trabzon, Turkey. Delegations from D-8 member countries exchanged views and shared information on the importance of production, distribution, trade, research and development in the field of rural tourism.

In the opening session, Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, Secretary-General of D-8, stated that the agriculture sector also progresses in tandem with the global economic environment and tourism has added to the agriculture sector over time. He underlined the importance of creating opportunities in rural tourism and said, “Since traditional tourism sector which is regarded as a growth sector has been facing serious challenges in terms of offering novel tourism products, rural tourism can play an important role to complement conventional tourism and provide an alternative source of income and employment to the economies”.

D-8 Member States were encouraged for further collaboration and partnership with ARDSI through this workshop. Participants from D-8 Member States would explore strengthening cooperation in capacity building, technical assistance and project implementation in the area of rural tourism.

The Workshop is the second to be organized by ARDSI under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ARDSI and the D-8 on Agriculture and Rural Development Cooperation which was signed in March 2015. The first “Workshop on Exchange of Information on Rural Development Policies” was successfully organized by ARDSI in May 2015 in Ankara. The main component of the MoU is the sharing of knowledge and experience by ARDSI to D-8 Member States in the area of agriculture and rural development. This is to take advantage of ARDSI’s experience gained during the process of Turkey’s candidacy for membership of the European Union. It may be mentioned that a delegation from African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) participated in the workshop under the auspices of D-8-AARDO MoU.
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General attached the highest importance to the relations among D-8 Member States. Since his assumption into the office of the Secretary-General, the Secretariat has given special thrust to further extension of existing economic relations between our Member States. He paid visit to Member States and met high officials to nurture effective partnership in order to attain common objectives of peoples live in D-8 region.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey on 07 April 2016 at the latter’s office in Ankara.

Mr. Faruk Celik, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock reiterated Turkey’s high commitment to the D-8 during call on him by Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, on 07 April 2016 at the former’s office in Ankara.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Bulent Tufenkci, Minister of Customs and Trade of Turkey on 27 June 2016 at the latter’s office in Ankara.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey on 24 December 2015 at the latter’s Office in Ankara.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Veysi Kaynak, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey on 27 June 2016 at the latter’s office in Ankara.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Bulus Zom Lolo, then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria on 24 February 2016 at the Foreign Office in Abuja.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Chief Audu Ogbeh, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria on 24 February 2016 at the latter’s office in Abuja.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, called on Mr. Lai Mohammed, Federal Minister of Tourism and Culture of Nigeria on 24 February 2016 at the latter’s office in Abuja.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, called on Ms. Aisha Abubakar, Minister of State of Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria on 24 February 2016 at the latter’s office in Abuja.
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At the invitation of Mr. Sowlat Mortazavi, Mayor of Province of Mashhad, Iran, D-8 Secretary-General, Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi paid an official visit to Mashhad that is one of the important provinces with a huge cultural and economic potentials in Iran.

At the invitation of the President of Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC), Dr. Mousavi addressed 4th Edition of International Model OIC on “Cooperation and Unity in Countering Terrorism, Overcoming Divisions and Strengthening Islamic Solidarity. The event was organized in Mashhad, Iran on 22-28 October 2016.

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Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, addressed an audience in a seminar at the Gaziantep University.

Dr. Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General met Rector of Yazd University 24-25 May 2016.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, met Mr. Ahmed Naseem Warraich, D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan on 15 February 2015 in Islamabad.

Late Necmettin Erbakan, former Prime Minister of Turkey and founding father of D-8, is being remembered on the fifth year of his death through the programs in his memory all across Turkey. D-8 Secretary-General, Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, attended as a keynote speaker in the commemorative assembly that was held by Erbakan Foundation in the Blacksea province of Samsun.

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Secretary-General’s

Provincial Visits in Turkey

2015 -2016

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Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General met Prof. Dr. Muammer Keşen, rector of Tokats University.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General met Prof. Dr. Cemil Çelik, Rector of İnönü University.

Mr. Vasip Şahin, Governor of Istanbul, paid his maiden visit to the D-8 Secretariat on 11 November 2015 and called on Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General.

Ambassador Sahebzada Ahmed Khan, then D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan, paid his maiden visit to the D-8 Secretariat on 9 October 2015 and called on Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General.

Mr. M. Allama Siddiki, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of Turkey, paid his maiden visit to the D-8 Secretariat on 29 September 2016 and called on Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General.

Dr. Mohammadreza Mohseni, the President and CEO of Central Securities Depository of Iran, paid a visit to the D-8 Secretariat on 20 November 2015 and called on Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General.

Mr. Wardana, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Turkey, paid his maiden visit to the D-8 Secretariat on 2 October 2015 and called on Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General.

Dr. Mousavi informed the audience of cooperation background, principles and commitments of the D-8 as well as challenges and opportunities facing the D-8. “A total population of about 1 billion in the D-8 member countries represents a huge potential export market and vast capacity in human resources to lead in the presence. The conference hosted by ESAM on 15 March 2016 in Sakarya, Turkey.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General met Mr. Yavuz Ziya Yılmaz, Mayor of Samsun.

Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General met Mr. Bahri Kesici, Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation of Turkey.

Dr. Bahri Kesici, Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation of Turkey met Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General on 4 April 2016.
D-8 Secretary General addressed the Asian Natural Gas Infrastructure Conference

17 November 2015, Singapore

At the Conference Dr. Mousavi presented a paper on “Potentials and Strategies of the D-8 Member States in energy cooperation. He informed that energy sector is considered as one of the priority areas of cooperation in the D-8. Currently, there are three working groups under the energy cooperation namely Working Group (WG) on Energy, renewable Energy and Mining and Minerals. There are a lot of potentials among the D-8 Member States, including cooperation in the energy sector because D-8 member States are not only rich in natural resources and large population, but also has vast potentials for development, given huge and fertile land mass, abundant cheap and skilled labor, diversified human capital and a large market of more than one billion people.

Dr. Mousavi said that, in order to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, D-8 needs to formulate new strategies, policies and measures and make joint efforts at overcoming basic problems of the D-8 Member States to achieve economic development and social welfare. Among other strategies in the energy sector are sharing of information, experience and best practices on policies and programs in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy technologies and rural electrification, joint research, exploration and production of alternative energy resources and establish a uniform format for database of energy experts and institutions.
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a meeting with Eng. Wassfi Hassan El Sreihin, Secretary-General of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in New Delhi on 08 January 2016 at the latter’s office in the AARDO Secretariat and informed him of the AARDO scope of work. He took the D-8 Secretary-General and his delegation through a comprehensive presentation on AARDO activities and the organization’s international partnerships. He noted that AARDO was ready to work with D-8 on issues of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on capacity building programme and sharing of knowledge as well as expertise in the development of projects. Both concurred that the two Organizations had a lot of scope for joint efforts in order to yield mutual benefits, sharing of information and analytical framework in particular. They agreed to inform each other of respective focal points who would develop a joint programme during the forthcoming D-8 Agriculture Ministers’ meeting to be held in Pakistan.

The D-8 Secretary-General updated the FAO Director-General with the latest developments taking place within the Organization and added that cooperation in D-8 priority area of agricultural cooperation is taking concrete shape. He hoped that in close cooperation with the FAO, the D-8 Organization would be able to increase its capacity in agricultural development.

The FAO Director-General warmly welcomed the D-8 Secretary-General and appreciated the information and ideas put forward by him. He informed Dr. Mousavi of the Organization’s scope of work. Both concurred that the two Organizations had a lot of scope for joint effort in order to yield mutual benefit, sharing of information and analytical framework in particular. He appreciated the Secretary-General for the inputs and looked forward to working together in future.

Both interlocutors agreed to work closely to foster inclusive development, build capacities of Member States and explore avenues for common projects.

The Developing Eight Organizations for Economic Cooperation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have expressed their cordial intent to facilitate close co-operation between the FAO and the D-8 with the objective of promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable agricultural development, focusing activities on poverty reduction, elimination of hunger, alleviation of rural poverty and increase in resilience of livelihood through sustainable agricultural development in the states of common membership.

The discussions focused on mutual collaborative partnership in areas such as, collaborative partnership in common scope of work, institutional linkage under the auspices of South-South Cooperation in order to utilise the expertise and specialized capacities, sub-areas within agricultural cooperation in order to avoid duplicity of resource mobilization, joint/common projects in agriculture and food security, capacity building in the D-8 in partnership with FAO etc. The FAO, having institutional capacity for inclusive and sustainable agricultural development linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) could assist greatly in capacity building within the D-8 Organization.

The D-8 and AARDO will work closely for mutual benefit

08 January 2016, New Delhi

The D-8 and FAO to work closely for alleviation of poverty through agricultural development

04 May 2016, Antalya
Secretaries-General of two intergovernmental organizations met on 28 March 2016 in Tehran. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization discussed various issues and aspects to foster cooperative relationship between two Organizations. They reviewed the current status of cooperation and discussed possible strategic discourse in order to consolidate cooperative relationship. Dr. Mousavi reiterated his congratulatory remarks on the assumption of the office of ECO Secretary-General last year. They agreed to maintain closer communication between the two organizations in order to further common partnership agenda and development priorities in a joint effort. They also underscored the need for mutual participation in each other’s programs.

D-8 and ECO consolidate cooperative relationship
28 March 2016, Tehran

D-8 and United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEW A) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 November 2015 in Malatya, Turkey to establish institutional framework and explore collaborative links for mutual partnership in areas of common and mutual interest. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, Secretary-General of D-8 and Mr. Mehmet Duman, Secretary-General of UCLG-MEW A signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations on the occasion UCLG-MEW A Executive Bureau and Council meeting.

Underscoring the importance of working together, Dr. Mousavi said that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is the initial step in strengthening partnership between D-8 and UCLG-MEW A. Mr. Duman said that two organizations would increase their cooperative efforts in the region through this MoU, in order to scale up services and networks. Under the MoU, the two parties agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in joint activities in areas of mutual interest, with a view to pursuing sustainable economic and social development through local governance. The MoU also envisages, among others, cooperation in capacity building, technical assistance and project implementation. Both the Organizations will identify areas of mutual cooperation and explore possibilities of partnership in those identified areas.

D-8 and UCLG-MEW A sign MoU to strengthen collaboration
13 November 2015, Malatya

Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Mr. Shamil Aleskerov, the then Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization met on 24 September 2014 in New York and discussed various issues and aspects to foster cooperative relationship between the two Organizations.

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Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, attended the 5th UCLG-MEW A Congress held on 19 April 2016 in Gaziantep, Turkey. The “Migration, Culture and Gastronomy Summit” was also held within the framework of the Congress.

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D-8 and Erbakan Foundation signed MoU to strengthen collaboration

26 June 2016, Istanbul

D-8 and Erbakan Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26 June 2016 in Istanbul. Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, Secretary-General of D-8 and Dr. Fatih Erbakan, President of Erbakan Foundation signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. According to the MoU, both organizations work to develop a framework for sustained collaboration between D-8 and Erbakan Foundation to include set of programs such as social, cultural, sport, academic cooperation and scientific publications.

On the occasion of signing the MoU, Secretary-General Mousavi expressed his confidence for a close partnership with Erbakan Foundation which was established by Erbakan family in the name of Necmettin Erbakan, the founding father of D-8. He stated that this MoU would provide a general framework to facilitate collaboration and cooperation in promoting and undertaking activities of mutual interest through the implementation of joint projects in established areas between the two organizations.