

Statement
by
D-8 Secretary General
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi
at the 5th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry
11 May 2016, Cairo, Egypt

Your Excellency Mr. Sherif Ismail,
Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Your Excellency Eng. Tarek Kabil,
Minister of Trade and Industry,

Hon'ble Ministers of D-8 Member States,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Excellency Eng. Ismaeil Gaber,
Chairman of Industrial Development Authority (IDA)

With deep sadness I express my sincere condolences at the loss of life of the members of the security forces on 08 May 2016 in the southern outskirts of Cairo. My heart is laden with sorrow and grief at the killing of eight people, which was a sheer demonstration of acts of cruelty in the name of religion. This brutality, under any circumstances, is not accepted in Islam and we condemn any kind of terrorist activities in all its manifestations.

I am honoured to be here today at the 5th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry. First and foremost, allow me to warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Sherif Ismail, the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt for his presence despite his busy schedule. Your presence, Hon'ble Prime Minister, here demonstrates great attachment Egypt lays to the D-8 Organization and will motivate us to pursue our cooperative efforts in this platform.

I would like to extend my profound appreciation to the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Your Excellency Eng. Tarek Kabil, for this timely initiative for hosting this important meeting in this historic city of Cairo. I would also like to thank all distinguished delegates for their attendance and continued support

to the cause of D-8 programmes and initiatives. I hope we can make best use of our time here to move forward our common agenda of strengthening D-8 industrial cooperation to a higher level.

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Hon'ble Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, industry is not only regarded as the leading sector contributing to economic growth but it also plays a significant role in providing an indispensable source of income and job opportunities for most developed and developing countries in the world, including in the D-8 region. Through industrial development and technological advancement, economies of scale in production as well as improved productivity would be possible. Sustained as well as resilient economic development would not be possible without a solid base in industry. In this respect, it is important that we follow sound industrial policy in order for us to further stimulate socio-economic development and improve overall welfare and standard of living of the people in D-8 Member States.

Today, the nature of industrial activities has become more sophisticated. Due to structural changes to the economy, industrial development has evolved from a low value-added assembly work to a higher technology and higher value-added industrial activities. Different level of specialization has also resulted in the emergence of comparative advantage among D-8 Member States where one Member State may have comparative advantage in certain industry over other Member States.

Therefore, through industrial cooperation, Member States can leverage on each other's strength and expertise in specific areas of specialization and this may act as a catalyst in expediting the learning process of acquiring new technologies and know-how among Member States. It is with this principle and taking into account the different level of development and industrialization among Member States that the notion of forming industrial cooperation was introduced to create a win-win situation for the benefit of all Member States.

Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Hon'ble Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With regard to D-8 industrial cooperation, we commenced our collaboration six years ago in 2010 in Tehran when we convened the first meeting. As we have strived through 4 (four) Ministerial events to this 5th Ministerial Meeting today, let us reflect on the milestone that we have achieved since then. In general, we have done well. It is indeed encouraging to note numerous initiatives that we have implemented up to this point, especially in the areas of capacity building and training, sharing of best practices and benchmarking as well as brainstorming of joint-venture projects.

Despite the success that we have achieved so far, we must not be complacent as there are still many more to accomplish. It is important that we constantly review the progress that we have achieved in our industrial cooperation. We should be sensitive to the need of our stakeholders and should cater to their requirements to ensure that they benefit as much as possible from our initiatives. Keeping this in mind, 13 Task Forces under Industrial Cooperation pursued intensive discussion during the last two days in order to concretize our efforts; the Task Forces revisited the recommendations and decisions that were made in all our earlier meetings and explored opportunities for expansion of further collaboration.

It is encouraging to note that the Task Forces and Senior Officials of Industry Cooperation have identified viable project ideas and outlined program of action for their implementation. This is what I have been continuously underscoring for affirmative action plan for implementation of policies into projects. As your Secretary-General, I will approach our international partners for cooperation in financial and technical matters. 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 were identified for further studies. It was also agreed that a new Task Force namely, Task Force on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment would be established to expand cooperation. We have also felt the need to draft ToR for the Task Forces.

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Hon'ble Ministers

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Tehran Declaration in January 2015 had underlined many pertinent decisions that have been followed through in this meeting. More efforts should be put in place to implement earlier decision and new ones. We should use our precious time here to renew our commitment and report our performance to our leaders at the upcoming 9th D-8 Summit scheduled on 5th December 2016 in Iran. We must convince our leaders that we have delivered in our endeavour to promote industrial cooperation among the D-8 community.

In our effort to further strengthen industrial cooperation, we must take on board important role of public and private sector partnership. The synergy that the public and private partnership can offer is immense. The role of the government is to ensure required infrastructure to facilitate the private sector to do business. Hence, the private sector should be more proactive in seizing the opportunities from many initiatives created in the various task forces.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the importance of establishing a well-coordinated collaboration in our quest to promote sustainable industrial cooperation among D-8 Member States. In pursuing our common goals, we should recognize the challenges that we faced and should do our best despite our limitations to achieve maximum outcome from the D-8 industrial cooperation.

Once Again, I would like to express our profound appreciation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their excellent work, contribution, and hospitality. And I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt for his high attachment to the D-8 Organization. I wish you all success in your endeavours and deliberations.

Thank you very much for your attention.