

Statement
by
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary General
before
32nd meeting of BSEC Council of Foreign Ministers
18 June 2015, Chisinau, Moldova

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be invited to the 32nd meeting of BSEC Council of Foreign Ministers for the signing ceremony of the ‘Memorandum of Understanding between the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation’ on 18 June 2015 in Chisinau.

To begin with, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the BSEC Council of Foreign Ministers and the distinguished Secretary-General of BSEC for kind invitation. It provides for an opportunity to establish institutional framework and explore collaborative links for mutual partnership in areas of common and mutual interest.

Excellencies

Distinguished participants,

The MoU envisages cooperation between the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in different areas, trade and commerce in particular. The signing is also an expression of the cordial intent to facilitate close co-operation between the two organizations with the objective of promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable development, focusing its activities on poverty reduction, trade facilitation, economic uplift, private sector involvement etc.

Now, **Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen**, please allow me to give a brief introduction on the scope of activities of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. The D-8 is an intergovernmental organization consisting of eight developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, dispersed in three

different continents in Asia, Europe and Africa. The leaders of these eight developing countries gathered in June 1997 in Istanbul and through the historic ‘Istanbul Declaration’, established the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

D-8 is based on friendship, solidarity and pursuit of sustainable economic growth. D-8 countries are endowed with abundant human and natural resources and the Organization aspires to become a dynamic economic group promoting sustainable development in member states as well as a major actor in global economic governance and system. We are putting efforts to cope up with the complexity of today’s global economic environment which has already integrated such concepts as inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, etc. to pursue constructive works.

Cooperation through the principal means of trade is our primary focus. In 1997, the D-8 intra-trade was only US\$ 15 (3.4%) billion. In 2012, D-8 intra-trade increased to US\$ 148.2 billion or 8.2% of total D-8 trade (US\$ 1.82 trillion). The figures attest that we are marching toward the right direction in terms of greater economic cooperation. We could, however, have reached a better economic height should our private sector be more engaging and inward-looking to promote the D-8 intra-trade.

Excellencies

Distinguished participants,

Given this background, I would like to happily share with you our outreach in external relations. The D-8 Organization has already established cooperative linkage with a number of international, regional and inter-governmental organizations including, inter alia, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), International Youth Foundation, African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), World Maritime University (WMU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Recently, our organization received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). We are in close contact with other international organizations such as, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and United Cities and Local Government-Middle East and West Africa (UCLGA-MEWA) to finalize the draft MoU. We are working closely with our international partners for realization of objectives and taking up projects.

We have focused more on realizable terms in the cooperative framework already in place with different organizations and we continue to explore opportunities in this regard. I am confident that these efforts will add to the progress of the Organization as well as to its visibility both within the D-8 community and in international arena.

At the end, please allow me to express, once again, my deep thankfulness and high appreciation to the Organizers for inviting me to this important event. I wish the Council session a resounding success and look forward to realizing mutual benefits from our newly established institutional partnership.

I thank you for your kind attention.