

Statement
by
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi D-8 Secretary General at
23rd Congress of International Union of Muslim Communities
“Global Threats and Islamic World ”
29-31 May 2014, Istanbul – Turkey

*His Excellency Mr. Recai Kutan,
Distinguished President of ESAM*

*His Excellency Dr. Emrullah İşler,
Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey*

*Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), it is a great honor and pleasure for me to be with you all at this important congress, *23rd Congress of International Union of Muslim Communities*’ with the theme *“Global Threats and Islamic World”*.

At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Economic and Social Researches Center (ESAM). I would also like to express my appreciation to ESAM for inviting me and to all participants for their presence and for their contribution in the Congress.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to draw briefly highlights about the D-8 Organization and its activity. The idea of the establishment of D-8 Organization goes back to *the Cooperation for Development Conference*, held in October 1996 in Istanbul at the initiative of Merhum Professor Necmettin Erbakan, then Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey. Subsequently, D-8 Organization was officially established through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State/Government at the 1st D-8 Summit on 15 June 1997.

From the very inception, D-8 has reviewed the international political scene and concluded that the post-Cold War international situation including rapid globalization of the world economic structure has created both opportunities and challenges for developing countries, conscious of the deep-rooted and sincere aspirations of humanity for peace, dialogue, co-operation, justice, equality and democracy. Envisioning the new grouping as a “cooperative mechanism” for socio-economic development, it was agreed in *the Istanbul Declaration* that the following D-8 principles would guide its spirit and activities:

- peace instead of conflict
- dialogue instead of confrontation
- co-operation instead of exploitation

- justice instead of double standards
- equality instead of discrimination
- democracy instead of oppression

D-8 is an intergovernmental organization and currently consists of eight developing countries, namely the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey.

D-8 is based on friendship, solidarity and pursuit of sustainable economic growth, endowed with abundant human and natural resources, aspires to become a dynamic economic grouping promoting sustainable development of its member states, as well as be a major actor in the global economic governance and system, and international economic cooperation.

The leaders of the D-8 has underlined some essential objectives such as to improve its Member States' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, and provide better standard of living. In addition, D-8 commits to work towards broadening the support for the Organization at the national level within the member states, and strengthen its weight and voice at regional and international levels, including through active engagement in and promotion of South-South and South-North cooperation.

In this era of globalization and inter-dependence, governments in developed and developing countries are revitalizing their national economies through various strategies, policies, and measures, including through establishing or joining group/collective arrangements.

The D-8 cooperation also encompasses all areas of cooperation such as trade, agriculture & food security, industry & SMEs, transportation, energy, communication and information, finance, banking and privatization, science and technology, poverty alleviation and human resources development, environment, health, tourism, and culture. In these areas, D-8 Member States have hosted many technical meetings and explored different opportunities to promote, develop and strengthen relations among D-8.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

D-8 Organization has faced several challenges in terms of political and economic issues. However, the D-8 organization has vital modality as economic grouping to provide insight and stimulate discussion among all stakeholders on the best strategies and policies to overcome the obstacles to improved competitiveness in developing countries, including D-8 Member States.

Since its establishment in 1997, including programmes emanated in the D-8 Roadmap, there are plenty of achievements that already taking into action as well as implementation from our Roadmap. Let allow me to mention briefly some examples achievements of D-8 Organization:

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

S The ratification of the “*Visa Agreement*”, entered into force on 05 February 2010.

S The ratification of the “*Preferential Trade Agreement among D-8 Member States*”, entered into force on 25 August 2011.

S The ratification of the “*Customs Agreement*”, entered into force on 24 October 2011.

S the ratification of the “*Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Civil Aviation*”

S *D-8 Statutory Documents*, adopted in Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia on July 2008

S *D-8 Charter*, adopted in Islamabad on November 2012 (8th Summit)

S *D-8 Global Vision* adopted in Islamabad on November 2012 (8th Summit)

S Memorandum of Understandings with OIC, ECO, IYF, AARDO S Letter of Intent with

World Maritime University

S Relations with other international organizations like OIC, ECO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, FAO, UNWTO, ITC, AARDO, ICAO etc. and international financial institutions like IDB, IFAD, OFID, ADB etc.

S Enhanced cooperation with NGOs and private sector representatives of both D-8 and other countries (D-8 Federation Chambers of Commerce and Industry - D-8 FCCI)

In line with global trade development, allow me to highlight some figures of D-8 intra-trade. Since its establishment in 1997, D-8 intra-trade has increased steadily up to now. The volume of D-8 intra-trade increased impressively from US\$ 15 billion in 1997 to almost US\$ 150 billion in 2012. By percentage share to the volume of D-8 total trade, growth of D-8 intra-trade increased from 3.4% in 1997 to 8.2% in 2012, which represents a solid improvement. In this regard, active and effective collaboration between and among governments; trade agencies and private sectors are seriously needed. Particularly, to meet the Organization’s trade target to a level of 15-20 percent or around US\$ 500 billion of D-8 total trade by the end of 2018.

With the political significance of the upcoming 9th Summit in 2014 in Turkey, the Organization is bound to seize this momentum to enter its second life-cycle phase, and strategically devise effective way to achieve its entire goals, in accordance with the principles of its great founders. The principle organs at the sectoral and Ministerial levels are actively engaging discussion and negotiations in the D-8 main priority areas of cooperation are namely Trade, Agriculture and Food Security, Industry and SMEs, Transportation and Energy.

At this juncture, please allow me to enlighten the role of D-8 Organization in enhancing

cooperation among private sector. D-8 Member States, both the governments and private sectors, need to create the right condition and institutional frameworks as a foundation upon which to encourage investment, innovation, and economic growth. These foundations will bring the capacity to ensure sound, transparent financial and economic management as well as establish public policies that encourage private investment.

Strategies towards integration in the D-8 member states are also imperative to prepare some major challenges ahead for the next 10 years, such as promoting trade/ business and industry/technology, encouraging private sector collaboration, ensuring financial stability, preventing adverse environmental spillovers (protecting the global commons), sharing knowledge and technology transfer and poverty eradication and elimination.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I am confident that Muslim Ummah will be united if they follow the true teaching of Islam and guiding spirits as laid down by Merhum Erbakan and reflected in our Charter as follow:

- peace instead of conflict
- dialogue instead of confrontation
- co-operation instead of exploitation
- justice instead of double standards
- equality instead of discrimination
- democracy instead of oppression

To sum up my remark, I would like to thank to the Economic and Social Researches Center (ESAM) for hosting this important congress and for their hospitality and I wish you all success in your endeavors and deliberations.

Thank you very much for your attention.