

**Statement
by
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi
D-8 Secretary-General
at the
4th Task Force Meeting on Technology Cooperation
1-2 September 2016, Ankara, Turkey**

*Your Excellency Dr. Orkun HASEKİOĞLU,
Vice President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
(TÜBİTAK)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to attend this important meeting on Technology Cooperation among D-8 Member States. Let me take this opportunity to extend my profound gratitude to the government of the Republic of Turkey especially to the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) for their generosity in extending a very warm hospitality in hosting this meeting.

Allow me to also thank D-8 TTEN Secretariat and all participants for their commitment and continued support in advancing the common agenda of D-8 collaborative partnership on technology cooperation. I look forward for your constructive contribution to this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, technology assumed an important role not only as a catalyst for economic development of D-8 Member States but also as an essential part in our everyday lives. Its role in all sectors of the economy and in all aspects of our lives is becoming extremely important and indispensable especially with the emergence of latest innovations and applications in the information and communication technology (ICT). Today, we use technology in numerous applications from the simple applications in our home to more sophisticated ones such as digital network, electronic appliances, telecommunication systems, modern personal computers and tablets as well as the new concept of internet of things (IoT), to name a few.

Taking cognizance of the exceptionally rapid advancement in technological development, and the impact it has in all aspects of our daily activities, it is vital that we are able to continuously keep pace with the latest development in the industry.

Therefore, to ensure that we would be constantly being kept updated with the latest technological development, we should take full advantage of our existing collaboration and make optimum use of our task force to share expertise in the relevant field of technology especially in the fast evolving information and communication technology infrastructure.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With regards to D-8 cooperation in technology, as you may recall, the first Task Force meeting was convened in October 2011 in Istanbul. In this regard, we have to a certain extent, manage to collaborate and come up with several practical project proposals for cooperation. One of the successful offshoots of our collaboration is the creation of the D-8 web portal for Technology Transfer and Exchange Network, that is known as TTEN which provide a unique platform and mechanism for Member States to share and exchange information on technology development.

However, I must admit that there are still room for improvement and we should further step up our collective effort earnestly and strive to generate more concrete and tangible projects that can greatly benefit our stakeholders. In this respect, I would like to request the task force to revisit its decisions and review its strategies so as to implement those decisions effectively and as much as possible, convert them into viable projects.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is encouraging to note that the organiser has structured this meeting 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. I believe the organiser has made a thorough study in coming up with the selection of these sectors which uses a significant level of ICT applications in delivering their services. Through this approach, participants will have the opportunity to share each other's experiences in the application of ICT and hopefully would be able to formulate possible solutions in addressing common problems and challenges faced by the Member States.

At this juncture, I would like to draw your attention to the important role of the industry players in advancing technology cooperation among the Member States. In this respect, I am pleased to note that the organiser had accorded special emphasis on private sector participation and had arranged specific sessions for policy makers, research institutions and the private sector to interact in this meeting. It is also hoped that this

session would provide further impetus to reinvigorate the public-private partnership strategic alliances which could serve as an important platform for the government and private sector to collaborate.

I would like to also commend the organiser for organising a dedicated networking session specifically for the private sector to network in this meeting. In this B2B session, the private sector will be 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. In this regard, I would like to request the private sector participants to make best use of this meeting to share their expertise and create a win-win situation for the mutual benefits of the business community.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by reiterating the importance of working together in our pursuit to achieve the outcomes that we aspire. I am optimistic that we can achieve maximum benefit from our endeavour if we strategize our approach and consolidate our effort in earnest to address the challenges that we faced in the field of technology. Towards this end, it is important that we continue to strengthen our collaboration and present ourselves with concrete project proposals for the benefit of all stakeholders in the Member States.

Once again, I would like to thank the government of the Republic of Turkey, particularly the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), for their warm hospitality in organizing and hosting this very important and timely meeting. I wish you all success in your deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.