

**Statement of the D-8 Secretary-General at
The Ministerial Conference of Science, Technology and Innovation of Non-Aligned
Movement (NAM)**

23-24 February 2015, Tehran - Iran

H. E Dr. Farhadi

Hon 'ble Minister of Science, Research and Technology of I.R. Iran,

Hon 'ble Ministers of NAM Member Countries

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honoured for the invitation to attend this very important conference. The Ministerial Conference of Science, Technology and Innovation of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will enable us to share the institutional development made within the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and explore an effective linkage between the D-8 and the NAM.

To begin with, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially to the Hon'ble Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran for his kind personal invitation. It is undoubtedly a unique opportunity for mutual interaction and consolidation of institutional cooperation between D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the NAM.

Hon'ble Minister,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

You may be aware that seven members of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation have common membership with the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), which makes this conference a great opportunity for more coordinated partnership and consolidated

effort on strengthening cooperation and establishment of common platform for promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Now, please allow me to give you an outline of cooperation in science, technology and innovation within the D-8 framework and then shed some light on broadening the scope of cooperation between the NAM and the D-8.

Hon'ble Minister,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

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.

Within the scope of the D-8, the Task Force on Technology outlined future cooperation in technology in the following broad framework:

1. Reciprocity between governments on the one hand and, between institutions of higher education and the research centers on the other,
2. Creation of framework conditions by the government,
3. Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN)
4. Establishment of R&D
5. Introduction of D-8 Scholarship
6. Cooperation in Agricultural field

Accordingly, a new platform in order to facilitate technology transfer and ease availability with truly competitive price among the D-8 Member States was created in the name

of D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN) with its Secretariat based in Pardis Technology Park in Iran. The D-8 TTEN has been tasked to manage the provisions of the services in the fields of its activities namely, Technology Exchange Fora, facilitation of participation in exhibitions among the Member States, ease in transfer of technology between the technology supplier and the buyer etc. The D-8 TTEN website was created in order to facilitate access to technology information of D-8 Member States and create a proper infrastructure for technology transfer and cooperation based on easily accessible and real-time web-based interface.

The D-8 TTEN Secretariat attended the first and second brainstorming meetings on transferring knowledge and expertise in the field of science & technology among the OIC Member Countries hosted by SESRIC on 9 January 2014 in Turkey and on 20 March 2014 in Iran, respectively. These meetings were preparation for participation in Jeddah Exhibition coinciding with the 40th anniversary of IDB establishment on 22-26 June 2014 in Jeddah, KSA.

The D-8 TTEN held 02 (two) meetings in Iran and Nigeria in October 2013 and December 2014 respectively. In its latest meeting in Nigeria, the forum reviewed the progress and effectiveness of the interface. In the same meeting, Iran announced sponsoring three international capacity building events in D-8 TTEN Member Countries under certain criteria and the new 'D-8 TTEN Technology Transfer Award' to encourage and promote technology transfer.

The 4th Task Force on Technology held its meeting in the sideline of the D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry in January 2015 in Iran. D-8 is working to upgrade the D-8 TTEN platform into a Technological Cooperation Center which will enhance and facilitate knowledge based economy.

Hon'ble Minister,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

In accordance with the Roadmap of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) adopted in the 6th D-8 Summit on 08 July 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, we have made a significant forward step by signing a Letter of Intent between the D-8 Organization and the Islamic Azad University of Iran to establish the D-8 International University in order to expedite and foster scientific research and innovation in the D-8 Member States.

We envisage revival of the golden age when great minds in our region excelled in every field of science from Astronomy and astrophysics, medicine, biology, to political science and philosophy. Establishment of the D-8 International University will help us in our joint effort to achieve our glory in science, technology and innovation.

Hon'ble Minister,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Given this background of institutional framework within the D-8 organization, I would like to emphasize on the importance of international technology transfer and exchange network in order to ensure sound and sustainable economic development which is based on mutual growth and reliable partnership.

Both the acquisition of technology and its diffusion smoothly and easily foster productivity and subsequent growth. Within the D-8 and if the scope is broadened within NAM, there are countries with surplus technology in many scientific and economic disciplines and it is high time availability of these technologies to countries that are badly in need was facilitated. Transfer of technology is more than just crossborder movement of high-tech equipment; it includes total systems and their component parts, including the know-how, goods and services, equipment, and organizational and managerial procedures. A comprehensive cooperation framework, therefore, is of essence in order for us to ensure Science and Technology Cooperation, Science, Technology and Innovation for Economic Growth and Rejection of Discrimination in Education, Science and Technology as extensively discussed in this august

forum.

Hon'ble Minister,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

NAM has expanded its focus in science, technology and innovation within its policy of cooperation and peaceful co-existence. Developing countries have achieved a lot of progress that has reshaped the life and living of our peoples. Yet, the difference in investment and use of technology, innovation and scientific excellence between the developed and the developing world is significantly wide and greatly leaned toward the developed countries. With a view to minimising the gap, we must extend our cooperative partnership in order to utilise our joint strengths; we must work together to harmonise and maximise our efforts and innovative skills. Science, technology and innovation being the prerequisites for inclusive social and economic growth need joint patronage in an effective platform for effective interaction and cooperative partnership so that the platform can be an instrumental conduit for dissemination of knowledge with the highest efficacy.

In order to develop a unique platform, there is a need to coordinate and harmonise internal policies and regulations with international standards, to remove disparities and differences amongst ourselves and to invest more on research and development. At the same time, we must develop marketing strategies to reap the benefits of investment.

Science and Technology is associated in all means with modernity and it is an essential tool for rapid and sustainable development. There are many areas whereby we may work in close tandem and maximize outcome by efficiently utilizing our resources. I look forward to working closely with the NAM for our common benefit and progress.

At the end, please allow me to express, once again, my deep thankfulness and high appreciation to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ministry of Science, Research

and Technology in particular, for inviting me to this important Meeting. I wish this meeting a resounding success.

I thank you for your kind attention.