

KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON D-8 TOURISM COOPERATION 2019

We, the Ministers of Tourism and Government/Representatives of 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 Republic of Turkey were present on the occasion of the Second D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism on 20th November 2019 to reaffirm our commitment to promote tourism cooperation.

Reaffirming our commitment made at the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held in May 2008 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance cooperation in promoting tourism, culture and socio-economic activities for achieving economic prosperity and wellbeing of our peoples;

Praising Malaysia for its relentless efforts at reinvigorating one of the most important sectoral tracks of cooperation among the D-8 Member States and encouraging its commitment to transforming the existing cooperation into tangible outcomes.

Recognizing the role of governments and private sector as catalysts and enablers of promoting tourism cooperation and socio-economic growth to facilitate tourism cooperation through enhanced commercial activities including the development of tourism infrastructure among Member States;

Emphasizing the need for better coordination and close engagement among the Member States in view of global developments and their impacts on national economies;

Reiterating our resolve to mitigate the effects of climate change and resultant global warming particularly on emerging economies and expressing our commitment to joint efforts in order to achieve effective adaptation to climate change and reduce the vulnerability of the people of the Member States;

Emphasizing the need to utilize the current collaboration among the Member States to further deepen the existing relationship and widen the scope of tourism cooperation and other new related areas towards this end,

We hereby,

1. Adopt the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism and Crescent Moon Initiative.
2. Welcome the deliberations and decisions of the Senior Officials Meeting and expressed commitment to implement the decisions taken.
3. Agree to embrace the application of new technologies to further integrate tourism into the digital economy; including linking all Member States national tourism websites to the D-8 portal on tourism.
4. Welcome the organization of joint cultural events, road tours and producing travel documentaries as they will be significantly helpful to all the Member States.
5. Welcome the idea of creating D-8 Designated Airports in each Member State to facilitate travels and tourism for citizens of the Member States and simultaneously promote people-to-people and business-to-business contacts.
6. Welcome the enhancement of D-8 Tourism cooperation at international tourism fairs and to organize travel fairs and exhibitions among Member States.
7. Encourage the establishment of an online platform to promote and market handicrafts and local products.
8. Recognize the need to promote the role of SMEs in tourism cooperation, feasibility of establishing Tourism House, eco-tourism initiatives and potentials, Muslim Friendly Tourism, health tourism, adventure and city tourism, pilgrimage tourism, etc.

9. Recognize the need for Member States to facilitate tourist visa process in conformity with national regulations, taking into account the D-8 Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen.
10. Request the D-8 Secretariat to consult with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and other international financial institutions on establishing funding facilities to support the D-8 Project Funding Programme on tourism cooperation.
11. Agree to hold D-8 Tourism Ministerial Meeting every two years to follow up on the implementation of the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy and to discuss and adopt relevant decisions on tourism cooperation within member States.

Ministers and Heads of delegation attending the Second D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made by the Government of Malaysia especially His Excellency Datuk Mohamaddin bin Ketapi, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia.