

**Statement**  
**By the D-8 Secretary-General**  
**at**  
**International Summit for Presenting Investment Opportunities in Mokran Shores**  
**23-24 January 2017, Chabahar Free Zone, Iran**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I begin with expressing my profound appreciation to the esteemed Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and Mokran Shores Development Secretariat, in particular, for inviting me to this **International Summit on Presenting Investment Opportunities in Mokran Shores** in Chabahar, Iran. The subject of investment is vital and timely given the fact that it shapes economic outcome to a significant extent.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of this Investment Summit for their warm hospitality since my arrival in this beautiful city.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Investment is a key concept in economy. It is a component of Aggregate Demand (AD). Therefore, if there is an increase in investment, there will be boost in AD and subsequently in economic growth. When investment is effective, there will be increase in the productive capacity of the economy. Improving productivity will increase competitiveness in the economy and subsequently will strike balance in economy. Economic growth is essential in order to reduce poverty in developing countries and to improve people's living standards. The activities of private sector enterprises play an important role in achieving high economic growth rates. This is especially true in light of the globalization of the world economy in the recent years. Trade and foreign direct

investment play an increasingly large role in the economic growth of developing countries. The hosting of this event, therefore, should draw significant attention in the economic community of the region, Iran as a whole in particular. We, in the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, put a lot of emphasis on the investment aspect of economic development; this is where our commonalities in terms of interest as in investment and area as in Iran being a founding Member of the D-8 lie. In my subsequent deliberation, today I would highlight the efforts we have been continually making to boost investment within the D-8 Community and how we may find common ground to work together for serving our common interest.

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At this stage, please allow me to give a brief introduction on the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and its scope of activities. The D-8 is an intergovernmental organization which is fundamentally established for improving economic standards among its Member States namely, 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.

The objectives of D-8 are to improve developing countries' position 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. 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.

The D-8 is a mix of Members with different economic size and strength. Some of its Members place their seat among the top economies of the world. During the establishment of this economic group back in 1997, the leaders of the Member States had strong political will as well as commitment to cater to the need of the countries in a small but more effective group that might necessarily be able to avoid complexities of a large organization and make decisions that are prompt, effective and result-oriented. Since its establishment in 1997, the D-8 successfully formulated the Charter, Global Vision, Roadmap and several other documents in order to ensure growth through effective partnership and elevate Member States' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations and provide better standard of living. The D-8 is also committed to work towards broadening the support for the Organization at the national level within the Member States and strengthening its visibility and image at regional and international levels, including through active engagement in and promotion of South-South and South-North cooperation. The Charter of the Organization stipulates establishment of 'mutually beneficial collaborative relationships with other states, regional or international organizations, institutions and non-governmental organizations with a view to establishing partnerships and/or initiating joint projects'.

D-8 cooperation encompasses all areas including 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. This gives D-8 Organization large opportunity to reach out for cooperation with different sectors and fields.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Between 1997-2014, the D-8 managed to secure an aspiring 4.2% real annual economic growth. Within the same period, advanced economies grew by 2%, Euro Area by 1.4% and the world growth remained at 3.8%. From 984 billion dollars in 1997, D-8's total nominal GDP more than tripled and reached 3 trillion 714 billion dollars in 2014.

Increasing intra trade is one of the core objectives of D-8. In year 2015 intra-regional exports (measured on FOB basis) realized as 47.6 billion dollars whereas intra-regional imports (measured on CIF basis) amounted to 51.9 billion dollars. The largest exporter of the region was Indonesia whereas Turkey was the largest importer of the region. The largest bilateral trade volume is between Indonesia and Malaysia. In year 2015 Indonesia's merchandise exports to Malaysia was 7.6 billion dollars.

The increase in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows is a good indicator of economic health as well as stability and business confidence. Being an important source of foreign exchange receipt, FDI flows to D-8 member states has almost quadrupled from 15.7 billion dollars in 1997 to 58.2 billion dollars in 2015. All countries have managed to increase their FDI stock, Turkey and Egypt being the most significant ones.

Yet, we are below the global FDI target; world total FDI inflows amounted to US\$ 1.76 trillion in 2015, marking a more than US\$ 486 billion increase over previous year's value of US\$ 1.27 trillion. During the period under consideration, FDI flows to D-8 countries generally remained below the potential. The total US\$ value of FDI inflows to D-8 countries was recorded at US\$ 62.6 billion in 2011. Since then, it generally showed a declining trend. In 2015, the total value of FDI flows to D-8 countries was recorded at US\$ 58.2 billion, registering a slight decrease from its previous year value of US\$ 59.7 billion. The share of D-8 countries in total flows to OIC countries, on the other hand, has generally been on the rise since 2011, which reached 50% in 2015.

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mokran Shores, located in one of the most strategic points of Iran, has great opportunity for investment in different sectors. Not only the natural bounties or the location of Mokran gives it an upper edge to foreign investors, but a free trade zone adds to the privileges on the proceeds of investment. An increase in the investment portfolio of Mokran will directly add to the basket of the D-8 and consequently, will help serve us reach the target in this sector. I hope that this event will sufficiently highlight the benefits of investment in Mokran so that investors feel confident about the worth of their risk and return. I would be happy to receive further information on investment opportunities in Mokran so we may share with our partners and stakeholders. I hope that D-8 Member States will have interest in investing in Mokran Shores and will find mutual benefit in doing so. An intra-D-8 investment initiative will not only help Mokran but also help the D-8 Member States diversify their economic baskets and yield more benefits.

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In my final words, please allow me to express, once again, my deep thankfulness and high appreciation to the esteemed Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and Mokran Shores Development Secretariat for inviting me to attend this timely initiative holding the International Summit on Presenting Investment Opportunities in Mokran Shores.

I thank you all for your kind audience and wish this event a resounding success.