

Statement of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria on the Signing of the Headquarters Country Partnership Agreement for D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office

*Your Excellencies,
Honourable Minister of Health,
Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization,
High Commissioner and Ambassadors of the D-8 Member States,
Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Health and Social Protection Programme,
Members of the Press,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honour for me to be part of this epoch-making event of the signing of the Headquarters Agreement of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme. Let me seize this opportunity to warmly welcome the Secretary-General of the D-8, and his team to Nigeria and to commend the Secretary-General for his astute leadership of the Organization.

I will also like to express my gratitude to the D-8 Member States for the honour bestowed on Nigeria to host the Programme Office of the D-8 HSP as well as the appointment of Dr. Ado as the Director of the Programme.

As you all know, Health and Social Protection Programme is an integral tool to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. However, emerging trends such as climate change and the likes, continue to be impediments to our development agenda, as well as, to the wellbeing of our people. This has made Member States to realize that more has to be done in the achievement of economic development of Member States, and that there are no shortcuts to sustainable development other than investing in people.

The adoption of the Health and Social Protection Programme by the D-8 Member Countries is therefore timely in assisting Member States to reduce poverty and inequality, as well as boost healthcare delivery. This will undeniably bring about the desired growth that will facilitate structural transformation of our economies. It is, therefore, important that we as Member States, continue to share our experiences towards making the Programme a success.

To this end, may I reaffirm Nigeria's commitment in ensuring the success of this initiative, as well as willingness to collaborate with other Member States and other stakeholders in ensuring that all citizens receives Access to affordable Healthcare and robust social protection.

In conclusion, as we look ahead to a successful D-8 Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh later in the year, may I assure of Nigeria's commitment to the vision and aspirations of the D-8. Once again, thank you all and I wish the Secretary-General and his team a safe trip.