STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ISC INAUGURATION PROGRAMME

The President of the ISC, Dr. Mohammad Dehghani,
Officials of the ISC,
Distinguished Academics,
Members of Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with gratitude to Allah that I wish to warmly welcome everyone to the inaugural programme of the D-8 University Ranking Interface of D-8 Map of Scientific Excellence and Collaboration (D8-MSEC) Project proposed by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) and finalized on 19th August 2019 in Shiraz, the Islamic Republic of Iran at the meeting between the officials of the D-8 and the ISC. I hope you will have fruitful deliberations today.

I wish to profoundly thank the ISC and its distinguished officials who initiated this Project for their untiring efforts in working out its minute details. In the same vein, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the President of the ISC, Dr. Dehghani and his team for the wealth of experience, hard work and creative imagination that they put into this initiative. The fact that the Programme is taking off the ground within such a short period of time is a testimony of our commitment to it as well as the importance that we all attach to it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Science, technology and research play a critical role in addressing today’s challenges of nation building as well as addressing planetary issues such as environmental degradation, poverty, health and social protection, efficiency of natural resources, etc.

The implementation of the D-8 Map of Scientific Excellence and Collaboration (D8-MSEC) Project in order to promote research quantity and quality and improve collaboration among D-8 Member States is being pursued within the framework of the MoU signed between D-8 and ISC in July, 2018, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Project is also in tandem with the D-8 Roadmap (2008-2018) which calls for the “promotion of cooperation on science and technology with the aim of institutionalizing the subject of cooperation through the establishment of scientific research centers of the D-8 Organization” that will accelerate the establishment of D-8 Scientific Database Center. Accordingly, the D-8 MSEC initiative will provide Access to the database of journals, researches and studies of the universities of D-8 Member States through a search engine.

As you are aware, this joint D-8 MSEC Project aims at setting up an appropriate mechanism to present scientific and research potential of D-8 Member States, universities and researchers to the world. It will also support the implementation of heuristic research outcomes through close
cooperation of Member States’ universities and research institutions. Moreover, this initiative seeks to introduce strategies to boost D-8 universities’ ranking in Global Ranking Systems and to enhance D-8 Member States’ quality and quantity of scientific research output.

In line with the D-8 MSEC initiative, today we will launch one of the most important parts of this huge undertaking which is the D-8 University Ranking Interface. This interface will include more than 200 universities from the D-8 Member States. These universities will be located in different parts of the D-8 Countries and have at least 400 scientific studies in the Web of Science (WOS) database in the past five years.

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to use this medium to inform you that the D-8 MSEC Scientific Database System will completely belong to the D-8 Organization and its Member States. It is a thing of pride and joy for the D-8 Organization to have its own unique system for scientific studies. I also strongly believe that the inauguration of D-8 University Ranking Interface will speed up the completion of the entire initiative.

Furthermore, I wish to seize this opportunity to bring to your attention the fact that the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation attaches great importance to research and innovation through collaboration among universities in D-8 Member States as is demonstrated by the establishment of the D-8 International University in Hamedan. In addition, the D-8 Secretariat established the D-8 Network of Pioneers of Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) with a view to bringing D-8 Member States’ government and semi-government research institutions, industrial research institutes and research in D-8 universities under one umbrella. Through these two initiatives, D-8 will expand the level of science and innovation in its Member States in order to engender the economic growth essential for sustainable development. To this end, I strongly believe that the D-8 Map of Scientific Excellence and Collaboration (D-8 MSEC) Project and its relevant sub-projects will provide support and assistance to the research undertakings of the D-8 International University and D-8 NPRI initiative and contribute to scaling up the quality and quantity of scientific research and other academic activities.

On a final note, I wish to once again thank the Islamic World Scientific Citation Center (ISC) and the President of the ISC, Dr. Dehghani and his distinguished team, and those who contributed to the development and realization of this important Project.

I thank you very much for your attention.