The D-8 empathizes with all peoples of the world on the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak, dubbed COVID-19, as an unprecedented global health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has now spread to 167 countries with high costs to human life. Globally, we are witnessing a public health and economic emergency. In times like this, countries with weak health systems are bound to face increased risk and vulnerability, with disruption of economic activities.

The D-8 stands in solidarity with the Government and citizens of Member States particularly Iran which is worst affected. We wish to appreciate our Governments’ response and efforts in carrying out the global control measures. We are grateful to those working hard to control, treat the disease, and preserve the wellbeing of citizens and remain convicted that the current challenges are transient.

The D-8 encourages all Member States to take timely, effective and coordinated measures to ensure that health and civil protection systems are adequately beefed up; to also undertake appropriate economic measures to minimize the potential socio-economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The D-8 will continue to monitor the evolving situation and calls on Member States and their citizens to support and amplify their efforts in responding to; preventing, reducing contagion, and loss of life. The D-8, in concert with other global health and economic players, will continue to work to mitigate the impact on our Member States. In overcoming this crisis, we wish to emphasize the importance of real-time information, improvement of prevention and mitigation strategies as well as swift and flexible response to unfolding developments.

The D-8 believes the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for longer-term investments in building stronger and more resilient healthcare within the context of social protection systems. We are therefore committed to ensuring that global health security and social protection goals are met through greater support, closer cooperation and enhanced coordination within the D-8 Member States as exemplified by the Health and Social Protection Programme recently established for this purpose.

Please let us all remain united in our efforts to overcome this crisis.

Amb. Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari  
Secretary-General