Secretary-General’s Message

on the Occasion of the 23rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the
D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

23 years ago, on 15th June 1997 our Leaders came together to set out a bold vision for the social and economic development of their countries and for navigating the bewildering complexity of global interdependence. With this vision, they established the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation; a democratic, just and equitable framework of cooperation for the eight most populous, young and dynamic developing economies that will help them thrive in all fronts of socioeconomic development. After 23 years, the D-8 has turned itself into an economic powerhouse of a combined GDP of USD 4 trillion and USD 110 billion intra trade, further extending and deepening cooperation in various sectoral tracks.

During these 23 years, with ever-increasing cooperation and solidarity, Member States have achieved many milestones in key priority areas. We have not only strengthened our partnership within but also established new avenues of cooperation with international organizations, chambers of commerce, business world and the private sector.

In my capacity as the Secretary-General, I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the Member States for their commitment to the cause of our Organization and hope that we will continue to reap the fruits of our endeavours in the fullness of time. I also would like to thank all officials who worked relentlessly for the success of D-8 and express my hope for the continuation of the good work.

Despite the success and many milestones achieved however, the road has not been without major setbacks and today is no exception. As with the rest of the world, we are vigilant towards the health crisis and the many economic challenges that it portends.

It is my firm belief that in a time of crisis, the D-8 will act as the veritable platform of support and play its part in uniting the Member States. With our solidarity and cooperation, we will come out stronger, more resilient and more united.

Once again, I commemorate Late Necmettin Erbakan, the founding father of our Organization for his lofty vision, and thank all the Member States for reaffirming their commitment to the D-8 during these 23 years.