Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 23rd Anniversary of D-8

On the 23rd anniversary of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, I would like to extend warmest felicitations, on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, to the peoples of D-8 Member States.

Meeting in Istanbul, 23 years ago, eight major developing countries laid the foundation of this Organization for the social and economic development of their peoples. It is gratifying that the Organization has since made significant contribution to promoting solidarity and strengthening cooperation among the brotherly nations.

The Organization and Member States have achieved certain milestones in major priority areas. They have established frameworks of cooperation, signed important agreements, and identified key goalposts. The D-8 sectoral meetings have chalked out tangible roadmaps.

The D-8, representing over 1 billion population with a combined GDP of US$ 4 trillion, has tremendous potential. While progress has been achieved in several areas, it is important to further accelerate the process and forge a stronger partnership in vital areas, especially the intra D-8 trade.

The Organization has long been working to tackle the challenges of poverty and economic development. The Covid-19 pandemic has created unprecedented global health and economic crises. I believe that with extended cooperation, and by upholding the core values of the Organization, we can effectively deal with the effects of the pandemic. It is the need of the hour that we confront the challenges holistically and work together to save lives and livelihoods and regenerate economies. With enhanced solidarity and practical cooperation, we will emerge more resilient and stronger.

Pakistan has been an active member of the D-8 from the outset. As Chair of the D-8, Pakistan played an important role towards realization of its vision. The Islamabad Summit in 2012 adopted two landmark documents -- D-8 Charter and the Global Vision. Pakistan also supports D-8’s new initiatives, and is ready to share its expertise in combating the pandemic.

As we commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the D-8, I would like to reiterate Pakistan’s commitment to the vision and objectives of the D-8 for the welfare and prosperity of our peoples. I also reaffirm Pakistan’s full support and cooperation in further advancing our shared goals in all areas of our common endeavours.

(Imran Khan)
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan