MESSAGE ISSUED BY
H.E. PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE D-8 ORGANIZATION

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the 23rd anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of the Developing Eight Countries (D-8), whose foundation we spearheaded, the Secretariat of which we host in Istanbul and whose Chairmanship we are currently holding.

The D-8 aspires to ensure that peace prevails over war, dialogue over conflict, justice and development over double standards, equality over superiority, sharing over exploitation, and human rights, freedom and democracy over oppression.

The D-8 is not a group of nations coalescing solely around interests, but goes far beyond as the embodiment of the quest for a fair, peaceful and stable world.

The developments of the past 23 years since its establishment, particularly the painful outlook witnessed during the process of the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated how accurate the purposes outlined by the D-8 are.

This process has also demonstrated the need for principles that we have been advocating, as well as the immense potential of the D-8 countries.

We enjoy great cooperation opportunities in a wide spectrum ranging from defence industry to health, technology to tourism, good agricultural practices to clean energy, and from transportation to environment and education.

Carrying into effect thoroughly the agreements concluded among our countries will help us increase the level of our trade volume, which currently totals 110 billion US Dollars, to 500 billion US Dollars.

With this understanding, we have been vigorously striving to turn the D-8 into a more effective, productive and project-oriented organization during our Chairmanship. Guided by the “Istanbul Declaration” and the “Istanbul Action Plan”, we have been resolutely continuing our efforts for the “2020-2030 Roadmap” and the “Dhaka Declaration” that will steer the Organization’s next decade.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish Allah’s mercy and grace upon the late Prime Minister Professor Necmettin Erbakan, who has led the establishment of the D-8, and I would like to express my gratitude to all our friends, who have served for the D-8 in the past 23 years and exerted great efforts in terms of developing and strengthening the Organization. I congratulate our Secretariat, which has been carrying out the activities of the D-8 with great devotion. May Allah reward their work with success!

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey