COMMEMORATIVE MESSAGE FROM THE 
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

As we commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the establishment of the developing eight countries, I express, on behalf of the good people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, heartfelt congratulations to the D-8 on its achievements thus far, and extend best wishes for greater success ahead in the realisation of the vision of the Organization.

Today, we are reminded of the aspiration and commitment of the founders to build a formidable bloc that would promote the economic development of our countries and the social well-being of our people through common effort. Our Organization is an international partnership rather than a regional arrangement, as reflected in the composition of its membership and intercontinental projects. For more than two decades, we have progressed and ensured that the vision of the founders were actualized through the adoption and implementation of agreements which have facilitated and enhanced trade amongst our countries.

This achievement has inspired us to do more, notwithstanding the global catastrophe being wreaked by the coronavirus pandemic. I am delighted that the D-8 had prioritized the importance of healthcare and social well-being of our people and preemptively established the Health and Social Protection Office in Abuja, Nigeria. This has undoubtedly prepared the Organization to respond quickly and effectively to health emergencies such as the one we are presently confronted with. In this context, I express my sincere condolences to families and member states, who have lost the lives of their loved ones and citizens to the pandemic. I wish all those who are still infected with the virus quick recovery.

Today’s challenges should not push us to retreat into spheres but should further strengthen our commitment to multilateralism as a framework to build a brighter future for all of humanity.

On this auspicious occasion of the 23rd Anniversary of the D-8, I wish to reiterate Nigeria's belief in the principles and objectives of the D-8 and reaffirm our willingness to cooperate with the D-8 Secretariat and its member countries to achieve peace, security and prosperity of our people.

H.E Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria