In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 23rd anniversary of inception of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation which came into being thanks to the initiative of late Necmettin Erbakan, then Turkish premier and expression of support by all member states. This organization which comprises eight of the most populous, dynamic and youngest developing economies has morphed into a successful framework for boosting cooperation and synergy among member states.

Boasting a population of more than 1 billion as well as rich natural and human resources, D-8 enjoys massive capacities for development of economic and trade cooperation which should and could attain a befitting niche at regional and global engagements.

Over the recent two decades, D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation has witnessed efforts and initiatives and has proceeded to finalize a series of arrangements and measures for forging meaningful intra-group cooperation.

The Vision Plan and its associated road map, industrial, agricultural, commercial, air services and petrochemical cooperation, SME and the likes are examples of such arrangements which have presented us with a proper vision. Through operationalizing and implementing each of these arrangements, we should create an influential set for influencing regional and international equations while fashioning economies resilient to regional economic and political adversities. However, the intra-regional trade volume of this
organization regrettably does not match its potentials. It is thus hoped that trade exchanges reach an acceptable level with the collective efforts of all member states.

The path of progress and development is indubitably characterized by peaks and troughs which can’t be negotiated by countries on their own. Treading on this path requires cooperation and engagements between countries in every field. We should bear in mind that resolving collective problems calls for collective efforts. It goes without saying that global issues will propel us to join hands and step up our cooperation for achieving the final goal of peace, economic growth and welfare of the people covered by this organization.

The current world in embroiled in crises, challenges and assorted threats, the most important of which are unilateralism and unilateral imposition of trade and economic policies as well as pressuring the independent states. This certainly disrupts free trade among nations and undermines their integration. D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation would serve as the right framework for development of multilateralism and could be a proper platform for all-inclusive progress of all member states. As was the case in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not spare any efforts in its cooperation with other member states to further strengthen this organization and achieve its lofty goals and thus welcomes any proposal or initiative for expansion of cooperation and entrenching solidarity among the member states.

Hassan Rouhani

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran