



STATEMENT OF THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL

His Excellency - Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Their excellencies – Ambassadors and High Commissioners of D-8 Member States,

Dr Ado Muhammad, the D-8 Global Programme Director,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my pleasure to join you on this auspicious occasion of the commissioning of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office in Abuja, Nigeria. I would have wished to be physically present but for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2. On behalf of the D-8 Secretariat, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation and immense gratitude to the Government and good people of Nigeria for



providing us with a secure, befitting and furnished edifice, as well as financial contribution for the operationalization of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Mandate for Member Countries. This is a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Honourable President Muhammadu Buhari's led administration to the vision of the D-8.

3. Since the commencement of work on this important sectoral track of cooperation, we have recorded a number of achievements that include the inaugural consultative meeting, the signing of the Country partnership Agreement, the COVID-19 round table and the engagement of bilateral and multilateral organizations like WHO, Chatham House and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in order to promote the key agenda of the D-8 bloc.

We believe that today's commissioning would consolidate on the gains made, particularly in the desire of the programme to support member nations in the areas of SDGs 1, 2 and 3 through resource mobilization, health trade and performance for results and impact.

4. On a final note, I wish to also thank and also congratulate Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Member States accredited to Abuja on the commissioning of the Programme Office.

5. I thank you for your attention.