

First Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

*Tehran Declaration
On Tourism Cooperation
2008*

We, the Ministers of Tourism of the Member States of Developing Eight Organization of Economic Cooperation, having indepth and productive discussions, exchanging information and understanding in the meetings on D-8 tourism cooperation, on May 14-15, 2008, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran;

RECALLING the Bali Declaration signed by the Heads of States of D-8 Organization at the 5th Summit on May 13, 2006, also the decisions of Council of Ministers, taken in New York on October 1, 2006 and of the 24th session D-8 Commissioners Meeting, held on November 23, 2007;

BEARING IN MIND the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, strategic programs of United Nations World Tourism Organization and the Tourism Action Plan of Organization of the Islamic Conference which all D-8 countries are member of;

REITERATING the significance of tourism as a fastest growing industry among D-8 countries in the improvement of economic development and alleviation of poverty by creating job opportunities, building a better standard of life and enhancing understanding among cultures;

ENVISAGE the implementation of D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, Custom Agreement.

REALIZING that D-8 cooperation programs and projects in tourism do not need unnecessary duplications with other international tourism organization program, instead need to have replication of the success practice and the implementation cooperation programs and projects to be broaden within D-8 countries;

RECALLING the necessity of implementation of D-8 Roadmap 2008-2018;

Hereby recognise that:

- 1 The need to have a clear plan to enhance tourism cooperation among member states.
- 2 Tourism development and activities in D-8 should be based on, inter alia, the socio-cultural values, the economic development and environmental requirements of member states.
- 3 To have complementary approach on tourism sector based on the potency of D-8 countries, regarding the diversification and improvement of tourism.
- 4 The need to enhance tourism joint actions on the areas of common interest among member states based on D-8 Declaration and D-8 road map including common marketing and packaging, shared tourism consortium, co-tourism, promotional facilities and etc.
- 5 The need for agreed D-8 Tourism Code of Ethics based on UNWTO Code of Ethics to govern tourism industry behaviour in a sustainable manner among member states.

- 6 To promote cooperation on the tourism advantage areas in D-8 such as Eco-tourism, Transit tourism, Health tourism, etc.
- 7 The need to involve all tourism industry stakeholders in planning and development process of tourism.
- 8 The importance and vital role of small and medium enterprises in sustainable tourism development and preserve cultural richness and protect environmental purity of destinations and economic viability of tourism plans and projects.
- 9 The need to create and increase public awareness and to facilitate dissemination of information on tourism attractions and facilities in D-8.

Agreed on:

- 1 To take necessary measures to increase total arrivals according to national plans of D-8 member states by 2018.
- 2 To study the feasibility of establishing a Tourism Fund within D-8 in cooperation with Islamic Development Bank and other national and international banks and funds to support tourism infrastructural development and business among member states. (Facilitator: Secretariat)
- 3 To facilitate a D-8 multi-stakeholders meeting on tourism from public and private sector as well as NGO's to convene D-8 Tourism General Conference right before next tourism ministerial meeting and propose items for further consideration of ministers.(Facilitator:)
- 4 To provide guidelines for supporting tourism private sector investment in D-8.
- 5 To encourage tour operators to create a D-8 mega-tour operator to enhance tourism exchange and facilitate service providing in D-8.(Facilitator:)
- 6 To create Tourism Clearing House Mechanism under tourism department of the secretariat to ensure D-8 countries to share tourism research, statistics, experiences and good practices and to inform all member states on the latest developments and national decisions and available potentials and opportunities in different aspects of tourism.(Facilitator:)
- 7 To take necessary measures and exchange experiences on establishing Tourism Satellite Accounts in D-8 in order to publish D-8 an yearly tourism report by tourism department of Secretariat. (Facilitator:)
- 8 To improve the role and functions of SME's in tourism cooperation by providing more effective and diversified incentive schemes. (Facilitator:)
- 9 To prepare the ground for broadcasting a weekly TV educational and awareness program within D-8 countries.(Facilitator:)
- 10 To study the feasibility of establishing a D-8 Tourism House in each country by secretariat.(Facilitator:)

- 11 To enhance cooperation among Ecotourism Tour Operators of member states. (Facilitator:)
- 12 Welcome the discussion on establishing the legal framework of the draft Convention on Nature-Based Tourism and develop cooperation on Ecotourism Development in the Selected Sites within the member countries.
- 13 Member states appreciate the initiative of Islamic Republic of Iran to convene International Tourism Investment Forum in October 2008, and international conference of tour operators in Tehran- Iran and to encourage the private sector to actively participate in these forums.
- 14 To recommend member states to establish frequent flights in order to increase exchanges of tourists among themselves.

Decided that:

- 1 To request the Head of States on the 6th D-8 Summit in Putra Jaya, Malaysia, on 7-8 July 2008, to endorse and support D-8 Tourism Cooperation Initiative and adopt the recommendations and decisions in the Tehran Declaration.
- 2 To establish a Working Group on Tourism to prepare 10 years action plan and D-8 Tourism Code of Ethics and other instruments envisaged in the present Declaration based on core D-8 documents to submit them to the meeting of the Commissioners/Ministers for their consideration.
- 3 To hold a D-8 Tourism Ministerial meeting every two years to follow up the implementation of D-8 Roadmap tourism section and D-8 Tourism Action Plan and to discuss and adopt relevant decision on the enhancement of tourism cooperation within D-8 and to convene Working Group of Tourism at least once per year to review, elaborate the achievements of D-8 in tourism area and to prepare relevant proposals for the consideration of ministerial meeting.
- 4 To establish tourism department in D-8 Secretariat to coordinate the tourism activities within the Group and to facilitate communication and exchange information on tourism and to call on 6th Summit to agree on a Tourism Expert for the Secretariat on Secondment basis.
- 5 To instruct tourism department in D-8 secretariat to cooperate with relevant international organizations, private sector, and NGO's to enhance their effective participation in sustainable tourism development in D-8.
- 6 To request Head of States to initiate necessary measures for facilitation visa procedures in conformity with national regulation.

Ministers and Heads of Delegations attending the First Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Tehran expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran especially Vice President and President of the Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization ,H.E. Esfandyar Rahim Mashae.