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Executive Director**

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ANNEX II

**Report of the First Meeting of D-8 High Level Expert Group on Trade and Trade
Related Matters**

(Tehran, 14-15 February 2004)

1. The First Meeting of D-8 High Level Experts Group on Trade and Trade Related Matters was held in Tehran on 14-15 February 2004.
 2. Mr. Mostafa Sarmadi, Advisor to the Minister and Director General of International Department at the Ministry of Commerce of the I.R. of Iran opened the meeting. Then a representative from the Executive Secretariat of D-8 and Mr. Mostafa Sarmadi made their opening statements. Touching on various items concerning trade development, they both stressed the need to boost D-8 intra-trade and take necessary measures for this purpose.
 3. The participants have all agreed to choose Mr. Mostafa Sarmadi as the Chairman of the Meeting.
 4. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted.
 5. In the light of the recommendations made at the Special Session whereby the Commission emphasised the priority of trade and trade related matters within D-8 cooperation, the Meeting stressed the importance to have a D-8 preferential trade agreement (PTA) and a multilateral agreement on administrative assistance among D-8 member countries in customs matters. The Iranian Delegation offered to compose a drafting committee to discuss and finalise these two draft texts which were earlier proposed by the I.R. of Iran. However, with the exception of two countries, majority of the countries were unable to work on these two drafts due to the fact that they did not have enough time to study them in detail and that they do not have relevant experts available at this meeting. Therefore, in principle as none of the participants have any objections to the idea to have a distinct D-8 preferential trade agreement, the experts decided to put these two drafts as Annexes to this report and to further study and comment on them till **the end of May 2004**.
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6. All the participants appreciated the initiatives and efforts of the I.R. of Iran in preparing these two drafts.
 7. It was also decided that the views of the experts on these two drafts will be sent to the Office of the Executive Director by the deadline date set with a view to being forwarded to the Iranian Authorities. The Iranian Ministry of Commerce volunteered to work on these new amended drafts and combine all proposals and make necessary amendments received from the experts in the form of matrix and send this new draft to the Office of the Executive Director for circulation to the Commissioners.
 8. The Distinguished representative from the Turkish Delegation emphasising the importance of the implementation of Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the member countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (TPS-OIC); invited the member countries of D-8 to sign and ratify the TPS-OIC Agreement and actively participate in TPSCOIC Trade Negotiations to be launched on 6-9 April 2004 in Antalya-Turkey.
 9. The meeting decided that the Second Meeting of D-8 High Level Experts Group on Trade and Related Matters should be hosted by one of the members who has not yet organised any meetings on trade or trade related matters. As a result, Pakistan volunteered to host the next meeting in the **first half of September 2004**. The exact date of the meeting will be announced till July 2004 to give sufficient time for the experts to get prepared.
 10. The participants also exchanged views on the possible modalities of the PTA and shared their experiences with other regional groupings.
 11. The participants expressed their profound thanks and gratitude to the Iranian Government for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.
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