

**SECOND MEETING OF D-8 HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS GROUP ON  
TRADE AND TRADE RELATED MATTERS 28 – 29 JUNE 2004,  
ISLAMABAD – PAKISTAN**

**REPORT**

1. In pursuance of the decisions of the Fourth D-8 Summit held in Tehran, the Government of Pakistan hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of D-8 High Level Experts Group on Trade and Trade related matters in Islamabad on 28-29 June, 2004. The delegations from all member states attended the meeting. A list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.
  2. The D-8 Commissioner for Pakistan, Mr. Tariq Osman Haider, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan delivered the inaugural address. While welcoming the delegates, he underscored the importance of trade and economic cohesion among the member countries of D-8. The text of address is at **Annex-II**.
  3. Ambassador, Ayhan Kamel, Executive Director D-8, in his opening statement, expressed the hope and keen desire for early finalization of the draft Preferential Trading Arrangement among the D-8 countries. The text of the address is at **Annex-III**.
  4. The Agenda adopted by the meeting is at **Annex-IV**.
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5. Mr. Shahid Bashir, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan and the leader of the delegation from Pakistan was unanimously elected the chairman of the meeting.

6. A Sub-Group of the Custom Experts was constituted to deliberate on the draft "Multilateral Agreement on Administrative Assistance on Custom Matters". Although the Custom Experts were not part of the delegations of all the member countries, it was unanimously agreed that the draft Agreement would be discussed on the sidelines and the report submitted by the Sub-Group would be considered for adoption by the plenary. The report was placed before the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2004 which was adopted. The text of the report is at **Annex-V**.

7. The draft "Preferential Trade Agreement among D-8 countries" was considered by the delegates on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2004. Formulations in the Preamble, Articles 1 and 2 of Chapter-I of the draft Agreement were discussed. All the changes made in the provisions of the Agreement were adopted with consensus. Revised draft Agreement is at **Annex-VI**.

8. The scope of the proposed Agreement was discussed in the plenary on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2004 and the following views were expressed :-

- i) The scope of the Agreement may include goods as well as services.
- ii) Principle of Negative/Sensitive lists may be adopted to negotiate tariff concessions as against the principle of positive list.

9. There was no consensus on the inclusion of trade in services in the Agreement, and accordingly the proposed Agreement shall only cover trade in goods for the present negotiations.

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10. It was agreed by consensus that each delegation would consult respective governments on the modality of coverage of goods in the proposed Agreement; whether to adopt Negative/Sensitive List or to follow Positive list approach. Besides, the phases of reduction of tariff need to be clearly identified in consultation with stakeholders by all the Member Countries. It was decided to discuss this aspect in the next meeting.

11. Regarding the convening of Third HLEG Meeting, it was decided that the matter will be considered at the forthcoming Session of the D-8 Commission in Tehran. However, Indonesia offered to host the meeting during 2005.

12. The leader of delegation of Arab Republic of Egypt offered vote of thanks.

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