

**REPORT OF THE VIII SESSION OF D-8 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS(*)
(New York, 27 September 2004)**

1. The VIII. Session of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers was held in New York on 27 September 2004. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr Gholam Ali Khoshro, Deputy Foreign Minister of the I.R. of Iran for International Affairs. The Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia Pakistan and Turkey were present at the meeting while the remaining members represented by their Commissioners.

2. Following the opening statement by the Chairman and the presentation by the Executive Director on D-8 activities since the Tehran Summit, the draft agenda was adopted. The Foreign Ministers and Commissioners made general statements, offering their views on various agenda items. They are summarized here below in the order of the agenda.

3. The present trend of globalization and the uncertainties and inequities of the multilateral trading system have laid a renewed emphasis on the need for regional economic interaction. Trade liberalization should be undertaken through an equitable and ruled-based trading system under the WTO. The recent adoption of the so-called "July package", is a positive development which has put discussion of the Doha Round back on track. However to achieve our goals in this endeavour, we as developing countries maintain our cohesion and unity and must be vigilant against attempts to include and reintroduce extraneous issues.

4. D-8 is a vehicle for fostering and accelerating trade and economic cooperation amongst the member countries. Although we have achieved quite progress in this respect, we have not yet been able to exploit the existing potential. Much still remains to be done. Having reviewed our activities at the Tehran Summit, we have adopted a number of measures to revitalize D-8 cooperation.

(*) Prepared under the personal responsibility of the Executive Director