REPORT OF

THE FIRST D-8 TASK FORCE MEETING ON FOOD INDUSTRIES

5 October 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

The first Task Force Meeting on Food Industries was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 5 October 2011. The meeting was attended by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. List of participants is attached as **Annex (1)**.

**Agenda Item No 1: Election of the Chair.**

Cüneyt Başbakkal who is Vice President of Foreign Trade in Yaşar Holding was elected as the Chair of the Meeting by the consensus.

**Agenda Item No 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

Under this Agenda Item, the proposed agenda was adopted.

**Agenda Item No 3: Election of Rapporteur**

Under this Agenda Item, Ali ESER from Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Republic of Turkey was assigned as Rapporteur by the chairman.

**Agenda Item No 4: Presentation of Country Report on the Status of Food Industries**

Under this Agenda Item, Turkey and Indonesia made a presentation on the current status of food industries and highlighted their areas of particular interest. Moreover, Egyptian representative who could not participate to the meeting provided an information note about Egyptian Food and Beverages Industry which was distributed during the meeting.

**Agenda Item No 5: Review of the work Programme and Progress Report based on the previous meeting**

Terms of Reference document of the 5th D-8 Working Group Meeting and its 7 items were reviewed by the participants of the 6th D-8 Working Group.

1-To define the necessary organizational framework for the food industries covenants, conventions and protocols, and implementation supervision of the same, that facilitate the effective technology, capital and human resources, transfer, within the D8 member countries, in order to further develop and optimize each countries competitive advantage potentials based on their respective domestic food industries strengths, so to promote the market position of D8 members in the Islamic World, individually and collectively.

**It was stated by the participants that this item is not so clear. In order to optimize each countries competitive advantage potentials, more efforts and measures should be taken by D-8 countries.**

2- Establish a harmonized food industries link quality assurance system and also the necessary legal framework to strengthen ties among D8 member countries research centers, universities and private sector NGOs, in order to coordinate the use of up-to dated standards for the production of healthy and hygienic food within the D8 countries and also to further facilitate food industries expert exchanges and the use of various periodic trade seminars and regional meetings as such.

**TÜBİTAK-MAM (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey- Marmara Research Center) representatives suggested that D-8 countries may implement common projects, research, trainings regarding food safety and quality assurance systems, expert exchanges among D-8 countries that might be initiated by TÜBİTAK-MAM.**

**Moreover, it was suggested that Ministries of Agricultures and other related organisations of D-8 countries should be identified and should also participate to the projects related with quality assurance systems.**

3- Establish effective communication and cooperation means and methods, among food industries' players from member countries, to exchange information and applied experiences in the green products production and consumption with particular view towards the environmental preservation/protection requirements of United Nations on climate change.

**Turkish representatives stated that this issue is very important and D-8 countries should share with each other any information regarding sustainable production and consumption in the field of food industries.**

4- Establish specialized food industries financial intermediary institution, with investment from private sectors of member countries, in order to provide for the financial needs and continued development of strategic relationship among member countries to enhance investments in the food and related industries, such as agriculture, with priority towards food deficient African countries as target markets.

**Participants stated that each D-8 member country should have Eximbanks or similar organizations and D-8 secreteriat in Istanbul should be the coordinator of information flow between D-8 member states in the field of financial intermidary institutions.**

**With regard to Trade relations and financial issues, Ministries of Economy and Trade should be included and in order to solve problems of trade restrictions and other similar problems (e.g. high customs tariffs) more measures should be taken.**

**In addition, participants suggested that in the D-8 Meeting it should be ensured that more private sector representatives from D-8 countries so as to discuss and solve problems that business sector encounter as well as increase business cooperation.**

5- Establish export insurance coverage for the inter-D8 transactions, with member countries investment, to provide for insurance for inter-countries investment, production and trade, to include same with other third countries target markets.

**This issue has been discussed in the previous item.**

6- To accept health certification issued by member countries' health supervisory authorities, in order to facilitate cross-D8 trade activities in Food and non alcoholic beverage, cosmetic and toiletry products.

**In this item, it was stated that mutual recognition of certificates is important and should be enhanced. The object of the certificates should be to facilitate the trade between D-8 countries and mechanisms of bilateral agreements among D-8 countries should be strengthened. The accreditation institutions of D-8 countries should work more closer with the support of D-8 secretariat in Istanbul.**

**Furthermore, trade restrictions of food industry products because of animal diseases should be solved with close cooperation of Agricultural Ministries in D-8 countries.**

**The issue of Helal Food has been discussed by the representatives and D-8 countries reflected their points of view with regard to certification of Helal Food.**

7- To make cooperations with UNIDO and IDB in food industries for D8 countries.

**TÜBİTAK-MAM representatives stated that they implement projects with UNIDO on food safety and quality assurance and other D-8 countries can also benefit from this kind projects.**

**Moreover, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) funds can be better utilised for trade and investment in D-8 countries.**

**Agenda Item No 6: New projects and areas of cooperation in Food Industries**

1. The information regarding import, export regulation, investment legislation in relation to food industries should be prepared by D-8 Member countries before the next meeting on industry.
2. It should be ensured that more private sector representatives from D-8 countries so as to discuss and solve problems that business encounter as well as increase business cooperation.
3. To establish electronic media such as web sites, blogs and databases in order to share information regarding food legislation and trade related issues. Central Anatolian Exporter’s Unions (OAİB) of Turkey stated that they can take the initiative in this respect.
4. Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) should participate more actively to the D-8 meetings and NGOs representing food industries in D-8 countries should interact more with each other with the support of D-8 secretariat.
5. Information exchange through the website of D-8 should be more effective.

**Agenda Item No 7: Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**

The meeting proposed that the next \_\_\_\_\_\_ meeting to be held back to back with the \_\_\_ D-8 Ministerial Meeting.

**Agenda Item No 8: Any Other Business**

**Agenda Item No 9: Adoption of the Report**

The Report was adopted by unanimity.

**Agenda Item No 10**

Cüneyt Başbakkal appreciated the Government of Republic of Turkey for hosting the meeting.