

**Report of the
37th Session of the D-8 Commission
16-17 April 2016
Istanbul, Turkey**

The 37th Session of the D-8 Commission was held from 16th to 17th April 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Commissioners/Representatives of all the D-8 Member States attended the Session. The list of participants is contained in **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting:

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Naseem Warraich, D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan and Chair of the meeting, officially declared the meeting open at Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Commission considered and adopted the agenda of the meeting, attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of progress report on activities since June 2015 by D-8 Secretary-General

H.E. Dr. Seyed AliMohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, delivered his statement by welcoming the Commissioners/Representatives and other members of delegation. In his Report, he highlighted the activities of the Organization from June 2015 till April 2016. The Report is attached as **Annex III**.

The Commission thanked the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report. The Commission noted that the schedule of the meetings should be circulated well in advance along with the agenda and expected tangible outcome that could help improve participation. Commissioners/Representatives updated the Commission with the latest status of ratification of D-8 Charter which is as follows:

Commissioner of Bangladesh – Ratification is in advance stage;

Commissioner of Indonesia - Ratification of the D-8 Charter will be placed in Parliament soon;

Commissioner of Malaysia – Views from the office of Attorney General of Malaysia are necessary before it could be submitted to the Cabinet to decide on the ratification; and

Representative of Turkey - The Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs had discussed the

ratification of D-8 Charter and hopefully it will be ratified soon.

Agenda Item 4: Statement by the Chair

In his opening statement, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Naseem Warraich, D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan and Chair of the meeting, warmly welcomed the delegates to the 37th Session of D-8 Commission while highlighting the continued global economic challenges and stressing the need of further efforts for mutual cooperation among D-8 Member States during the difficult economic times.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion on the next Principal Organ Meetings

The Commissioner of Islamic Republic of Iran informed that Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the proposal to host the 9th Summit. He informed the Commission of the Summit and preceding meetings as per the following schedule:

- i. 38th Session of the Commission will be held on 3rd December 2016.
- ii. 17th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers will be held on 4th December 2016.
- iii. 9th Summit will be held on 5th December 2016 in Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Commissioner of Islamic Republic of Iran also informed that the invitation letters to the Heads of State/Government, Agenda and Work Program would be sent to the Member States soon. He requested the Commissioners/Representatives to seek confirmation of participation by the Heads of State/Government in the Summit. Since the Summit would coincide with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the D-8 Organization, the Commission decided that a set of outcome documents would be drafted by the Secretariat in consultation with Islamic Republic of Iran, taking into account the achievements and challenges of the Organization and presented to the D-8 Leadership.

The Commission expressed its profound appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for graciously agreeing to host the 9th D-8 Summit and hoped that the Summit would be an important milestone for the Organization.

The Commission, after detailed deliberation, agreed on the following:

- i. Special Session of the Commission with Pakistan as the Chair would be held on **19-20 July 2016** in Istanbul;
- ii. The Commission would discuss outcome documents of the Summit for the consideration of Council of Foreign Ministers and subsequent submission to the Summit;
- iii. The Secretariat would work closely with Islamic Republic of Iran to propose a theme for consideration of the Commission in the Special Session; and

- iv. The Commission reiterated the ‘rotation principle’ as agreed in the Special Session of the Commission in October 2015 in Istanbul. Accordingly, Republic of Turkey would assume the Chair of the 10th D-8 Summit.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Calendar of Events for 2016/2017

The Secretary-General updated the Commission on the Calendar of Events for 2016 and 2017. He also highlighted the Ministerial Meetings that were held in 2016 and the confirmed events for 2017.

The Commission considered the Calendar of Events for 2016 and 2017. The Commissioner of Indonesia briefed the Commission on preparations for the 2nd Working Group Meeting of Consular Authorities on Simplification of Visa Procedure in the second half of 2016. In this regard, he requested the Member States to forward a list of at least 50 businessmen each for consideration of the 2nd Working Group. Updated Calendar of Events for 2016 and 2017 is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion on achievements and challenges in Sectorial Cooperation

The Secretary-General presented a comprehensive Report on sectorial cooperation as per **Annex V** and stressed the need for revision in approach/structure for sectorial cooperation. He highlighted, among others, the importance of Member States acting as a Prime Mover/Pioneer/Coordinator. He noted the need for participation in the meetings at an appropriate level and timely announcement of meeting schedule.

The Commissioners/Representatives thanked the Secretary-General for the Report and requested him to include the ideas, in consultation with Islamic Republic of Iran, in Summit documents.

Agenda Item 8: Progress Report on External Relations including discussion on obtaining observer status in the OIC

The Secretary-General informed the Commission of the progress made during last year in external relations of the Organization. The list of external relations is reflected in **Annex VI**. He also proposed to obtain the observer status of the OIC.

The Commission took note of the Report and commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to enhance D-8 relations with important international and regional partners. The Commission noted that establishment of external relations should have strong correlation with the mandate and objective of the Organization. It also underlined the need for periodic reviews on the effectiveness of external relations with international/regional organizations.

The Commissioners/Representatives requested the Secretary-General to submit the request for observer status in the OIC to the OIC Secretariat in accordance with rules of both the Organizations.

Agenda Item 9: Presentation of the Audit Report 2013-2014

The Secretary-General presented a Report to the Commission on the audit carried out by the auditors from Pakistan and Turkey. The Report prepared by the Audit team as well as comments and feedback made by the Secretariat is attached as **Annex VII**.

The Commissioners/Representatives requested the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to follow the proposals and comments made by the auditors while appreciating the Secretary-General for his efforts to improve financial management of the Organization. The Commission agreed with the audit recommendation for converting deposit account into General Reserve Fund (GRF). The Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a mechanism on the governance of the GRF for the consideration of the Commission in the upcoming Special Session.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion on the vacant posts of the Secretariat

The status of recruiting of two vacant posts in the Secretariat was presented by the Secretary-General. Keeping in view the requirements of the Organization and observations made by the Audit team in their latest audit report, he proposed changing the nomenclature of Professional Accountant to Executive Assistant III and accordingly revising the job description in order to recruit a suitable candidate who would pursue work in sectorial cooperation. The Secretary-General also informed that 3 (three) candidates out of 110 applications were shortlisted for the position of Program Officer. He requested the Commission to finalize appointment of one candidate along with future recruitment procedure. He also proposed that the practice of “alphabetical rotation” might also be followed for appointment of Program Officer in successive cases.

The Commission approved the Secretary-General’s proposal for renaming and revising the work of Professional Accountant to Executive Assistant III (**Annex VIII**).

On the issue of appointment of Program Officer, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the Commission appointed Ms. Damla Hacıbrahimoglu from Turkey in the position of Program Officer in accordance with the terms and conditions for the post and the Statutory Documents of the Organization and decided the following rules for the future appointments of Program Officer:

- i. Practice of alphabetical rotation will follow for successive appointments for the position after completion of term of the incumbent from Turkey;
- ii. Member State following the alphabetical order will submit at least 3 (three) candidates for the Secretary-General to make recommendation to the Commission for appointment of a candidate;
- iii. In the event, the incumbent Program Officer does not complete his/her term, the sending Member State may send another suitable replacement to complete the term;

- iv. In case, the Member State in the alphabetical order does not submit any candidates for the post, the turn will be given to the following Member State in the alphabetical order and so on; and
- v. Six months before the completion of the term of the post, the Member State in the next alphabetical order shall submit the names of the most suitable candidates to the Commission for approval.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration of the update of the Statutory Document(s)

Pursuant to the decision in the 36th Session, the Secretary-General presented a proposal to the Commission to revise the Staff Regulations and the Financial Regulations. He highlighted, in particular, the issue of airfare for family members of Directing Staff and mentioned that the Commission had already agreed in its Special Session on entitlement of airfare for family members of Directing Staff upon joining and relinquishing the post.

The Commission discussed the proposed amendments in detail and agreed on the entitlement for airfare for the Directing and Professional Staff as per the following conditions:

- i. The Directing and Professional Staff must complete at least two-third length of their tenure of service in the Secretariat in order to be eligible for final return ticket;
- ii. Spouse and maximum 4 (four) children aged not more than 18 years will be entitled to airfare during joining and return after completion of tenure of service.

The Commission requested the Secretary-General to present to the next regular Session a report on the Statutory Documents with revisions, while keeping in view the comments made by the Member States during the Commission's 37th Session, and practice in other organizations and Member States as well as the financial implication of the suggested revisions, where possible.

Agenda Item 12: Discussion on the draft guideline on “Cooperation Framework” and “Feasibility and General Purpose Fund”

The Secretary-General, with reference to the Special Session of the Commission held on 10-11 October 2015, presented to the Commission the draft guidelines on the “D-8 Cooperation Framework” and concept paper on the “Feasibility and General Purpose Fund”.

The Commission considered the documents and decided that the Member States would share their views on the papers prepared by the Secretariat within 30 (thirty) days from this meeting date and the Secretariat would revise the papers taking into account the views received from the Member States and submit to the Commission in its Special Session in July 2016.

Agenda Item 13: Submission of the Budget Realization Report for 2015

The Secretary-General submitted the Budget Realization Report for 2015 attached as **Annex IX**.

The Commissioners/Representatives took note of the report and appreciated the Secretary-General for his efforts in prudently spending the budget of the Secretariat. The Commission decided that the Secretariat would prepare a report on unspent fund for the consideration of the Commission in the Special Session within the draft budget for 2017.

Agenda Item 14: Consideration of the proposed Budget for 2017

The Secretary-General presented proposed budget for 2017 as enclosed in **Annex X**.

The Commission noted the proposed budget and decided the following:

- i. Proposed budget for 2017 would be submitted in the Special Session of the Commission in July 2016;
- ii. Proposed budget would be presented alongside the adopted budget of the previous year highlighting proposed changes;
- iii. The table showing change in Member States' contribution alongside percentile figures would also be prepared.

Agenda Item 15: Information on upcoming Directing Staff (Secretary-General and Director I)

The Secretary-General informed the Commission of completion of the term of current Secretary-General and Director-I by the end of 2016.

The Delegates from Malaysia and Nigeria informed the Commission of the following updates:

- i. Commissioner of Malaysia informed that the details of the candidate for the post of Secretary-General beginning office in January 2017 had been finalized and would be forwarded to the Secretariat for circulation among the Member States.
- ii. Representative of Nigeria informed that the process of identifying best suited candidate for the position of Director-I was ongoing and its outcome would be soon communicated to the Secretariat for circulation to the Member States.

Agenda Item 16: Any Other Business

Under this agenda item, following issues were raised:

- i. The Secretary-General updated the Commission with the latest information on the

relocation of the Secretariat to new premises. He informed that the proposed relocation in an independent building namely, *Tas Mektap*, was no longer available. He also noted that fresh efforts in exploring suitable venue for relocation would be followed.

The Representative of Turkey informed that the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs would assist the Secretariat in identifying better premises for its relocation.

Under this Agenda Item, the Commissioner of Malaysia informed that based on the decision of the previous session of the Commission, the paper to add Tourism as one of the D-8 priority areas had been updated and would soon be circulated through the Secretariat.

The Representative of Egypt briefed the Commission on the forthcoming 5th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry to be held in Cairo on 9-11 May 2016 and Task Force Meetings on the sidelines. She stressed the importance of active and high level participation by the Member States and the private sector in the Meeting.

Agenda Item 17: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 37th Session of the D-8 Commission

The Commission considered and adopted the Report of the 37th Session of the Commission.

Concluding Remarks by the Chairman

The 37th D-8 Session of the Commission was closed on 17 April 2016.

The Chairman expressed his deep appreciation to the delegations for their support, deliberation and important contributions to the discussion that had resulted in constructive outcome.

Commissioners and Representatives also expressed their high appreciation to the Chair for his competent chairing and appreciated the Secretariat for all arrangements and its valuable work and support rendered to the event.