

**The 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers
Hosted by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka, 21 May 2024**

Report

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh hosted the 1st D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka on 21 May 2024. Delegates from the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye attended the meeting. The list of participants is enclosed in **Annex- I**.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome Remarks and opening of the Meeting

H.E. Nazmul Hassan, M.P., the Hon’ble Minister of Youth and Sports of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh chaired the Meeting. In his welcoming remarks, the Chair underscored creating a smart young generation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. In this vein, he underscored the enhanced collaboration among the D-8 Member States, especially through the establishment and well-functioning of the D-8 Youth Council, sharing best practices among the D-8 Member States, training and capacity building, economic empowerment of youth, and increased participation in innovation and technological development. He then officially opened the Meeting. The opening remarks is attached as **Annex- II**.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted the agenda, which is attached as **Annex- III**.

Agenda Item 3: Remarks by the Secretary-General of the D-8

The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered his remarks, highlighting that the D-8 has the incredible demographic asset of significant young and dynamic population. He also underlined the empowerment of youth population of the D-8 Member States to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further expressed his optimism that the D-8 Youth Council, once established and operational, would serve as a platform for youth empowerment, particularly in ensuring education and skills development; engaging youth in entrepreneurship; and increasing their social participation. The Secretary-General’s remark is attached as **Annex- IV**.

Agenda Item 4: Remarks by the Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States

The esteemed Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States delivered their respective national statements highlighting their national policies and action plans for youth development. They further outlined possible areas where the D-8 Member States could enhance their

collaboration and partnership to uplift the youth engagement. The remarks are collectively attached as **Annex- V**.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration and Endorsement of the Report of the 1st D-8 Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth

The Meeting considered and endorsed the Report of the 1st D-8 Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Youth. The SOM's Report is attached as **Annex-VI**.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration and adoption of the “Dhaka Declaration on Youth 2024”

The Meeting considered and adopted the Dhaka Declaration on D-8 Youth 2024 as its outcome document. The adopted Declaration is attached as **Annex- VII**.

Agenda Item 7: Consideration and endorsement of the ‘D-8 Youth Council’

The Meeting endorsed the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council, to be hosted by Bangladesh in Dhaka. The Meeting further congratulated the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the Council.

Agenda Item 8: Date and Venue of the 2nd Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers.

The Meeting appreciated the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its gracious offer to host the 2nd D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria. The date of the meeting will be announced in due course.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

No issue raised under this agenda.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration and Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Meeting considered and adopted the report of the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the Meeting

In his closing remarks, the D-8 Secretary-General conveyed profound gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the Meeting and congratulated H.E. Nazmul Hassan, M.P., Hon'ble Minister of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for his effective and able chairing of the Meeting. He also thanked and congratulated all delegates for their valuable contribution to the success of the Meeting.

In his Closing Remarks, H.E. Nazmul Hassan, M.P., Hon'ble Minister of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to all delegates for their fruitful discussions and commended the constructive outcome of the deliberations.

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bangladesh delivered a vote of thanks to the distinguished delegations from the Member States for their participation in the Meeting.

The Delegates conveyed their appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the excellent arrangements for the 1st D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting and thanked the host for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. The Delegates also expressed their sincere appreciation to the D-8 Secretary-General and his team for assisting the preparation and organization of the Meeting.

Ministerial Statement by the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme on the Occasion of the Youth Ministers' Meeting of D8 Countries in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Honorable Secretary-General of the D-8, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam,

Distinguished Ministers, Delegates from the D-8 Member Countries,

Excellencies! Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before speaking I want to convey deepest condolences on the sad demise of the President of Iran and his team.
It is a privilege and honor to address this esteemed gathering on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. I extend my heartfelt greetings to all present, and I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss our shared goals and achievements in youth development.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Iran and the families of deceased.
Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the commendable work of H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8, and the D-8 Secretariat. Their dedication to promote youth empowerment and integrating it into the D-8 agenda is truly admirable.

Additionally, I express my profound appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Nazmul Hassan MP, Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for his excellent chairmanship of this meeting and his contributions to youth development.

I extend our congratulations and deepest gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their exceptional preparation and successful hosting of the 1st Meeting of the Youth Ministers and the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth of the D-8 Member States. The warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations right from our arrival at the airport has truly touched our hearts.

Pakistan is a country with a vibrant and dynamic youth population. With 70% of our population under 30, which is approximately 170 million individuals, the Government of Pakistan is deeply committed to their development and economic upliftment.

In 2013, under the National Youth Development Framework, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was established. This programme operates on the Four Es model: Education, Employment, Engagement, and Environment i.e to provide quality education, gainful employment opportunities, meaningful and inclusive engagements and preparation to meet the climate challenges.

Prime Minister's Youth Programme Initiatives:

Prime Minister youth programme is a special initiative of Prime Minister for national youth development to empower our young people different initiatives' are being run under each of 4 core areas.

- For instance, under education we have, the Prime Minister's Skill Development Programme which has trained half a million young individuals, equipping them with high-demand employable skills.
- The Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme has distributed laptops to students in universities across Pakistan.
- The Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture loan scheme has provided business loans at subsidized rates, fostering successful businesses and generating employment opportunities. To date, 140 billion rupees in loans have been distributed, with 86 billion in just the last year.
- The Prime Minister's National Innovation Award is aimed at encouraging innovation and to provide incubation support to young minds and bring their ideas to viable businesses.
- The Green Youth Movement was initiated to address climate change by establishing 137 Green Youth Movement (GYM) clubs to sensitize and involve youth in environmental sustainability.

- A National Youth Council has been established, serving as an advisory body on policy frameworks to the Prime Minister. The Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan serves as the Patron-in-Chief of this council.
- A Digital Youth Hub has been launched, providing a one-stop online portal and a mobile application for youth to access various opportunities on scholarships, capacity building, and job opportunities.
- Sports is an important area and medium to inculcate leadership skills and promotion of peace and development. We Run an extensive Youth Sports Talent Hunt programme for both young men and women.

With these initiatives we are trying to close the lope by providing youth with skill training , IT skills and then equipping them with laptops and connecting them with startup funds and business loan programme.

Pakistan is committed to empower its youth by promoting networking opportunities. By facilitating the exchange of ideas and fostering skills such as communication, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and leadership, we aim to create an environment where young individuals can seek guidance, advice, and inspiration from experienced professionals and peers.

With this platform, the D-8 offers a space for collaboration and the exchange of ideas on business and entrepreneurship. We fully endorse the formation of a D-8 Youth Council, which will serve as an excellent platform for youth leaders to share ideas and explore new opportunities for development and prosperity across our member countries.

Cultural exchanges through tourism initiatives among D8 countries can play a significant role in fostering people-to-people connections, promoting cross-cultural understanding, appreciating diversity and strengthening bonds between nations. By sharing our unique cultural traditions, historical landmarks, and

stunning landscapes, we can build bridges of friendship and cooperation, enhancing regional harmony and cooperation among D8 member states.

Palestine

In conclusion, I reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to youth empowerment and our dedication to working collaboratively with the D-8 countries to foster a brighter future for our young generations. Together, we can create a world where youth are not just participants but leaders in driving sustainable development and prosperity.

I Thank you all.

→ We strongly condemn the atrocities committed particularly by Israel on innocent Palestinian people in Gaza. ~~and~~ We stand with our Palestinian brothers, sisters and youth during these testing times.

**The 1st D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Youth
Hosted by the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka, 20 May 2024**

Report

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh hosted the 1st D-8 Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth in Dhaka on 20 May, 2024. Delegates from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex- I**.

Before commencing its substantive session, the Meeting offered its deepest condolences to the esteemed Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the untimely demise of H.E. Ebrahim Raisi, the Honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.E. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with their entourages, which was caused by the tragic incident involving helicopter crash in Iran on Sunday, 19 May 2024. The Meeting also observed a minute of silence as a gesture of condolence and sympathy to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

The Chair of the Meeting, Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh delivered the opening remarks and officially opened the Meeting. He stressed youth empowerment in every sphere by developing their capacity and ensuring economic development through engaging the young people of the D-8 Member States in innovation, development and technological advancement. He further underscored the formation of efficient and productive youth society through training and excellence at national and international level. His opening remark is attached as **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted the agenda which is attached as **Annex- III**.

Agenda Item 3: Remarks by the Secretary-General of the D-8

The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered his welcoming remarks. The Secretary-General underlined the need for formulation of a national policy and regulations to prioritize youth entrepreneurship; creation of entrepreneurs' alliance involving the D-8 youth; reevaluation of export and import policies for SMEs in D-8 countries to encourage youth entrepreneurs. and improving all forms of education i.e., vocational, formal, digital literacy, and entrepreneurial education among D-8 youth. The remark is attached as **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item 4: Remarks by the Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States

The esteemed Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States delivered their respective national statements on youth highlighting the status of their youth development and outlining the ways and means to enhance youth engagement among the D-8 Member States. The remarks are attached as **Annex- V**.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration and Recommendation of Establishment of D-8 Youth Council in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh briefed the Meeting on the proposed D-8 Youth Council, including the nature of the Council, its regulation, registered office, membership, the executive committee, rules of procedures for the convening of the Council, decision making process, budget and funding mechanism, as well as the operational manual.

The Meeting principally agreed on the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council in Dhaka, as was approved previously by the D-8 Commission through its 46th Session, held in Istanbul, Türkiye on 15-16 February 2023. The Meeting was of the view that the articles of the Constitution of the proposed D-8 Youth Council needs to be discussed further among the Member States and tasked the Secretariat to share the draft ‘Constitution of the D-8 Youth Council’ with the Member States again. The Meeting invited the Member States to provide their respective inputs to the draft Constitution with a deadline of one month after receipt of it.

The draft ‘Constitution of the D-8 Youth Council’ under consideration is attached as **Annex- VI**.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation on the Best Practices of the D-8 Member States

The Delegates from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Türkiye shared the best practices on the youth development in their respective countries as follows:

- a. The Delegate of Bangladesh made a presentation on Digital Skills for Smart Generations. The Presentation is attached as **Annex- VII**.
- c. The Delegate of Indonesia made a presentation on Blue and Green Economy and Eco Tourism. The presentation is attached as **Annex- VIII**.
- f. The Delegate of Nigeria made a presentation on Climate Resilience Youth Development and Youth Networking. The presentation is attached as **Annex- IX**.
- g. The Delegate of Pakistan made a presentation on Non-Formal Education for Youth. The Presentation is attached as **Annex- X**.
- h. The Delegate of Türkiye made a presentation on Employment Policy for Youth and Entrepreneurship Development. The Presentation is attached as **Annex- XI**.

Agenda Item 7: Establishment of an ‘Integrated Youth Database Website’

The Delegate of Bangladesh briefed the Meeting about their proposal of the establishment of an integrated youth database website for D-8 Youth. The Delegate highlighted further the salient features of this website and its role on enhancing networking among the D-8 Youth.

The Meeting principally acknowledged the idea of establishing an ‘Integrated Youth Database Website’ of the D-8 youth, however, requested Bangladesh to share a detail concept note defining the purposes, objectives, criteria, data type and other relevant features of the database website.

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of the draft of “Dhaka Declaration on D-8 Youth 2024” to be adopted by the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers

The Meeting considered the draft “Dhaka Declaration on Youth 2024”, after which it endorsed the draft, based on the principle of consensus, for the Draft to be adopted by the Ministers in their Session the following day. The draft Declaration, finalized by the SOM, is attached as **Annex- XII**.

Agenda Item 9: Date and Venue of the 2nd D-8 Senior Officials’ Meeting on Youth

The Meeting appreciated the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its gracious offer to host the 2nd Senior Officials’ Meeting on Youth. The date and venue of the meeting will be announced in due course.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

The Meeting noted the proposal from the delegate of Nigeria to enrich the draft Constitution of the D-8 Youth Council and requested Nigeria, through the D-8 Secretariat, to circulate the proposal as part of their enrichment of the Constitution.

The Meeting noted the proposal from the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a Secretariat dedicated to Youth Empowerment and Skill Development Center in Tehran. However, the Meeting requested Iran to send its proposal officially through the diplomatic channel.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration and Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Meeting considered and adopted the Report of the 1st Senior Officials Meeting on Youth.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the Meeting

The Meeting was closed with the following statements:

- a. The Secretary-General of the D-8 conveyed profound gratitude to the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting and warmly thanked Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed for his competent chairing. He also thanked all delegates for their active participation and contribution to the Meeting.
- b. In his Closing Remarks, the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, expressed his profound appreciation to all delegates

for their fruitful discussions and commended the constructive outcome of the deliberations.

The Meeting also appreciated the D-8 Secretariat for its valuable work.

Dhaka Declaration on Youth
the 1st Meeting of the Youth Ministers of the D-8 Member States
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 21 May 2024

We, the Ministers of Youth and Sports of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye met in Dhaka on 21 May 2024 for the 1st Meeting of the Youth Ministers of the D-8 Member States;

Reiterating our commitments made in Istanbul, Dhaka, Cairo, Tehran, Bali, Kuala Lumpur, Abuja and Islamabad to peace, democracy, progress, dialogue, solidarity, partnership and tolerance as well as moderation as the core values and foundation for achieving economic prosperity and well-being of our peoples;

Reaffirming our strong faith in multilateralism, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and committing to active participation, effective coordination and cooperation with all relevant regional and international organizations in order to maximize the realization of our common interests and underscoring the potential and benefit of South-South Cooperation that contribute to the development of the D-8 Member States;

Emphasizing the importance of youth networking, young people are empowered to expand their horizons, exchange ideas, and cultivate essential skills such as communication, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and leadership to create an environment where individuals can seek guidance, advice, and inspiration from experienced professionals and fellow peers;

Desiring to pursue the objective of sustainable youth development and recognizing the importance of mutual cooperation in possible working areas;

Seeking to explore possibilities to enhance cooperation in banking and financial institutions, training, and capacity building for the youth, through among others, a D-8 youth task force, website development, their role in small and medium enterprises, information and communication technologies;

Commending the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for identifying and proposing the need for the D-8 Youth Council and utilizing their human capital as well as augmenting their capacities through the implementation of the Council;

Mindful of the challenges of climate change and its profound impacts due to anthropogenic processes on the growth and developmental aspirations of developing nation-states in particular and expressing our commitment to combined efforts in achieving effective adaptation to climate change through building climate resilience as enunciated by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh as the current Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), to reduce the vulnerability of the people especially youth of the D-8 Member States;

Affirming the importance of enhanced and deepened cross-sectoral cooperation for a more intensive private sector engagement in all youth activities in order to realize the intra-D8 Youth aspirations;

Noting the benefits of tapping into the immense potential of the ‘Blue and Green Economy’ as well as the principles of circular economy, which could further fuel the growth of the economic pie and boost prosperity across the D-8 Member States.

Expressing our resolution to fight against all threats to economic development as well as peace and prosperity of the D-8 Member States, including, among others, terrorism, sectarianism and extremism in all forms and manifestations;

Confirming our opposition to the catastrophe brought by the attacks of Israel to the Palestinian People, including the youth, throughout Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Reiterating our opposition to the inhumane acts performed by Israel aiming to make the occupation constant and strip Palestinian People off all their rights, especially their freedoms and right to form a fully independent and sovereign country on their national territory.

Welcoming the Communique named “Solidarity with Palestinian People” adopted at the 47th D-8 Commission on 23 October 2023, United Nations General Assembly’s Resolution adopted at the 10th Emergency Special Session on 12 December 2023, OIC Resolution on the Issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif adopted by the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference on 4-5 May 2024 and recalling the decisions adopted by the United Nations and other international

organizations with regards to the freedom and independence of Palestinian People throughout all their territory.

Do hereby,

1. Welcome the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council in Bangladesh with the valuable support of the Member States in the entire process. We also commend the staunch commitment of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to establish and host the D-8 Youth Council and assure full support for the promotion of the D-8 Youth Council.
2. Applaud the efforts of strengthening the best practices of D-8 Member states, especially digital skills for the smart young generation, through green jobs, eco-tourism, sports and cultural activities, technological advancement and innovation, vocational and non-formal education, entrepreneurship and climate resilience for its development.
3. Encourage Member States to explore the possibilities of developing a D-8 youth development strategy as an integral process which will be the basis for the work of the D-8 Youth Council.
4. Acknowledge the need for continuous and effective collaboration in training and capacity building of D-8 Youth and agree to establish a D-8 Youth Exchange program among the D-8 Member States.
5. Invite the Member States to share youth activities with the D-8 Secretariat for exchange of best practices in order to develop the friendship and fraternity bonds among the D-8 youth and to ensure that they are closely acquainted with each other's cultures.
6. Request the D-8 Secretariat to prepare "D-8 Cooperation Action Plan for Youth" by 2024 in a way to enable that one or two youth activities are held annually according to the proposals of the Member States.
7. Agree to enhance our collective effort to engage the youth and to ensure their participation in the new reality of 4IR as envisaged in the first ever D-8 Youth Summit held on 21 April 2021.
8. Appreciate the organization of the "25 Years of D-8: Resilient Youth in Mutual Cooperation" as a part of the D-8 Jubilee in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2021.
9. Agree to hold D-8 Ministers and Senior Officials Meeting on youth regularly.

10. Acknowledge the commendable work done by H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8 and the D-8 Secretariat in promoting youth empowerment and mainstreaming it in the agenda of the D-8.
11. Express profound appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Nazmul Hassan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for his excellent chairing of the meeting and for the success during his chairmanship of D-8 Youth.
12. Congratulate the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the excellent preparation and the successful hosting of the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers and the D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Youth and express utmost gratitude for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations.

adopted in Dhaka, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on the 21st day of May, 2024.

1st Meeting the D-8 Youth Ministers
Hosted by the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka, 21 May 2024

List of of Delegation

| Country | Name and Ministry |
|----------------|--|
| Bangladesh | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. H.E. Nazmul Hassan, MP (HoD) Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Youth and Sports2. Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports3. Mr. Kazi Mostak Zahir Joint Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports4. Dr. Md. Zahirul Islam Deputy Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports |
| Egypt | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Mina Machary (HoD) 2nd Secretary Embassy of Egypt in Dhaka |
| Indonesia | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Hamdan hamedan (HoD) Expert Staff to the Hon'ble Minister of Youth and Sports Ministry of Youth and Sports2. H.E. Heru Hartanto Subolo Ambassador of Indonesia in Dhaka3. Mr. Arif Suyoko Counsellor for the Political and Socio-cultural Affairs Embassy of Indonesia in Dhaka4. Mr. Robbi Firly Harkha Attaché Embassy of Indonesia in Dhaka |
| Iran | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Rouhollah Ramezani (HoD) Director General Office of Coordination and Supervision of Youth Affairs Ministry of Sports and Youth |
| Nigeria | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. H.E. Mr. Donuma Ahmed (HoD) Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.2. Mr. Rasheed Olwadamilare Yusuf Special Assistant (Policy) |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| | <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports Development</p> <p>3. Mr. Okon Abia Victor Ministry's Desk Officer</p> |
| Pakistan | <p>1. H.E. Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan (HoD) Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme</p> <p>2. Dr. Muhammad Ali Malik Deputy Secretary Prime Minister's Youth Programme</p> <p>3. Mr. Muhammad Bilal Second Secretary, Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka</p> |
| Türkiye | <p>1. Mr. Ahmet Temurci (HoD) Director General International Organizations and Foreign Relations Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>2. Mr. Mustafa Barış Öztürk Head of Department Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> |
| D-8 Secretariat | <p>1. H.E. Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam (HoD) Secretary-General</p> <p>2. Mr. Punjul Setya Nugraha Director Economy, Implementation and External Relations</p> <p>3. Mr. Md Biplob Tarafder Program Officer</p> |

*Welcome Speech by the Chairperson, H.E. Nazmul Hassan, MP,
Hon'ble Minister of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers*

Here is present His Excellency Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan

Honorable Chairman, Prime Minister's Youth Program
Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan

His Excellency Dr. Enes Eminoglu

Honorable Deputy Minister
Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Dr. Sina Kalhol

Honorable Deputy Minister
The Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

Honorable Secretary-General, D-8, Respected Senior Officials & Representatives of D-8
Countries, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning all of you.

I take the privilege of welcoming you to the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers in
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Let me begin by expressing our heartfelt gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh
Hasina, who remains a role model of development for the developing nations.

It is through her visionary leadership Bangladesh is harnessing the power of its youth, and
taking advantage of this demographic dividend, the country is on its path to achieve 'Vision
2041' with the aspiration to become a developed nation by 2041.

She is the beacon of hope, remaining firm on her commitment to realize the dream of her
father, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for building a

prosperous Golden Bengal. The greatest Bengali of all time, Bangabandhu remains a perennial source of inspiration for the youth.

It is worth mentioning that our Honorable Prime Minister, being a founding member of D-8, attended the first summit in Istanbul in 1997. She was also the Chair when we hosted the 2nd D-8 Summit in Dhaka in 1999.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world. The youth constitutes about 30% of the population which is estimated to be around 54 million. This demographic dividend provides unique opportunity for us to accelerate economic growth and achieve sustainable development.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has always inspired the youth to be the real change agents for the country as their initiatives have the potential to drive inclusive economic growth and encourage innovation to address many environmental and social challenges. She has urged the young generation to become self-reliant and create employment for others instead of seeking jobs.

The digital revolution in the country, under direct guidance of the Honorable Prime Minister, led the country to become a global freelancing hub. Today, Bangladesh has emerged as the 2nd largest source of IT freelancers in the world, and tech-savvy young entrepreneurs are making their mark on diverse sectors.

The entrepreneurial spirit among young Bangladeshis is very much visible. Government initiatives are fostering a startup culture and country's startup ecosystem is navigating through an era of unparalleled growth creating huge employment opportunities for the youth.

The government has been trying to formulate policies accommodating the goals and aspirations of the youth. The National Five-Year Plans also give special emphasis on creating employment for the youth. In the 8th Five-Year Plan, we have set targets of

creating 11.33 million more jobs including 3.5 million overseas opportunities by 2025. **The Ministry of Youth and Sports** continues to provide training to the youth to be self-employed, entrepreneurs and skilled workers. We strive to improve vocational education infrastructure to offer practical skills that match market demands, to ensure a consistent flow of skilled people for our important sectors.

Social inclusion and empowerment are essential for developing a Smart Bangladesh, alongside economic and technical progress. The involvement of disadvantaged groups such as women, those with disabilities, and ethnic minorities in the digital economy promotes social cohesion and opens up new opportunities for economic growth. Especially investing in women and empowering them accelerate progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful society and that is the best pathway to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Distinguished Attendees,

We all know youth are the catalysts for change. They are natural innovators, never afraid of taking any challenge or exploring new possibilities. They are passionate about making a positive impact on their communities and finding creative solutions to problems like climate change, poverty, and social injustice. Their dedication to building a better future can contribute significantly to a more equitable society.

The D-8 region is home to more than 1.3 billion people with a majority of young population. Simply by sheer numbers, youth are key to shaping the future. As we all share the similar vision and economic interests, it's time to prepare a Smart Generation led by the youth, in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, accelerate our economic progress by cooperating with each other, and create new opportunities among ourselves.

We dream of a sustainable future where youth will lead the world and we believe the power of youth has the potential to guide us through these transformations.

Distinguished Delegates,

Bangladesh successfully organized the first ever “**D-8 Youth Summit’ in 2021** under the theme ‘Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Transformation’ with participation of around 200 youth delegates from all D-8 member states.

In that summit, the participants made a few wonderful recommendations:

- They proposed to create a D-8 youth hub/common youth council.
- They suggested a D-8 Bank for young entrepreneurs, with lower interest rates and easy access to funding and loans from banks and financial institutions.
- They strongly emphasized on improving education, especially vocational education, problem solving and communication skills, and promoting women economic rights through equal participation.

Bangladesh is already working on those recommendations which resulted in the proposal of the D8 Youth Council. During the day-long discussions at the Senior Officials’ Meeting yesterday, they collectively agreed on a few priorities to further advance youth development, which are:

- Annual Meeting of D-8 Youth Ministers and Senior Officials
- Establishment of D-8 Youth Council
- Strengthening the best practices of D-8 Member states
- Website development and of D-8 youth data collection and analysis
- Formulation of D-8 Youth Development Strategy
- D-8 Youth Exchange Program
- Training and capacity building of D-8 Youth

We shall work today on the report from the senior officials and other agenda in a day-long engagement.

Thank you all for your presence and participation. Let us now begin this transformative journey together!

I wish you all a very successful Summit and hope you all have a pleasant and enjoyable time in Dhaka.

Joy Bangla. Joy Bangabandhu.

**THE 1ST D-8 YOUTH MINISTERIAL MEETING
Hosted By the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Dhaka, 21 May 2024

AGENDA

- Agenda Item 1: Welcome remarks by the Chair and opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda
- Agenda Item 3: Remarks by the Secretary-General of the D-8
- Agenda Item 4: Statement by the Honorable Youth Ministers/Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States
- Agenda Item 5: Consideration and Endorsement of the Report of the 1st D-8 Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth
- Agenda Item 6: Consideration and adoption of the "Dhaka Declaration on Youth 2024"
- Agenda Item 7: Consideration and endorsement of the 'D-8 Youth Council'
- Agenda Item 8: Date and Venue of the 2nd Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers
- Agenda Item 9: Any other business
- Agenda item 10: Adoption of the Meeting report
- Agenda Item 11: Closing of the Meeting
 - a. Closing Remarks by the Secretary-General of the D-8
 - b. Closing Remarks by the Chair, the Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports of Bangladesh

Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, for the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Youth Ministers Meeting hosted by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 21 May 2024

His Excellency, Nazmul Hassan, MP, Esteemed Chair of D-8 Youth and the Honourable Minister of Youths and Sports for Bangladesh, Honourable Ministers/Heads of Delegation of D-8 Member States, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here today, at the 1st Session of the D-8 Youth Ministers Meeting hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and especially to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through you, Mr Chair, for their steadfast dedication in hosting this Meeting.

I congratulate them on the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded me and my delegation.

Allow me also to express my profound appreciation to all esteemed D-8 Member States delegations for attending this crucial meeting.

I am particularly elated that we can all be here for our first session. As we all know, Bangladesh has been preparing for this crucial meeting since last year. However, we have experienced several postponements.

However, the most important thing is here we are --- at last.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's been three years since the People's Republic of Bangladesh organized the first D-8 Youth Summit, at the margin of the 10th D-8 Summit in 2021.

Bangladesh also organized a seminar on the *D-8 Role of Regional Youth Development and Future Prospects* in 2022. These two meetings demonstrate the premium the D-8 organization places on youth development.

I also welcome the proposed best practices to be delivered by various heads of delegation of the D-8 Member States here present.

Our today's meeting also bears significant importance since we will also inaugurate the proposed D-8 Youth Council. The Council --- once established --- will provide an excellent avenue for us to bolster our programs and activities further to empower youth in our territories.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Such importance derives from the fact that the D-8 has the incredible demographic asset of a significant young and dynamic population.

According to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), around 210 million youths, i.e., persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, make up the population of the D8 Countries, which constitutes nearly 20% of the total population of the D-8 Member States. I firmly believe that inclusive development is inconceivable in the era of innovation and technology without harnessing youth's potential.

May I also stress that the D-8 member states need to mobilize youth for civic stability, good governance, and innovation. Participation in the civic space will play an important role and be a key actor in stewarding the shape and state of global affairs in the near future.

Youth empowerment will contribute greatly to the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is one of the D-8 Organization's objectives. Also, Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive.

Therefore, I am optimistic that D-8 Youth Council, once established, may serve as a platform to ensure youth empowerment, particularly in ensuring education and skills development, preparing youth to enter employment and engage in entrepreneurship, promoting the health and well-being of youth, and increasing their social participation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At this juncture, I want to use this opportunity to thank all our participants, once again, for their unwavering commitment and the quality of their presentations. What we look forward to is the adoption of the "Dhaka Declaration on D-8 Youth" as the outcome of this noble session.

I want to take this opportunity to urge our Member States to continue to prioritize Youth Empowerment on our development agenda and vigorously pursue it at all levels.

I believe the time is now to focus on youth projects in very concrete terms to sustain youth empowerment, development, and growth among the member countries.

Our experts and officials must develop tangible, viable action plans and concrete projects to implement the decisions and recommendations of this Ministerial Meeting. I strongly believe that through our constructive cooperation, we will soon reap the fruits of our efforts.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting this important meeting. I wish all of you success in your endeavours and deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.

D-8 GENÇLİK BAKANLARI TOPLANTISI TASLAK KONUŞMA NOTU

H.E. Nazmul Hassan Papon, Minister of Youth and Sports

H.E. Rana Mashhod Khan, Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Programme

H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Esteemed Representatives of the Member States, Officials of the D-8 General Secretariat,

Distinguished Participants,

I extend my respectful greetings to you.

First of all,I would like to offer my sympathy to brotherly Iran at this incredibly difficult times with a heavy heart.

I send sincere condolences to Iranian people on behalf of Türkiye.

I have the pleasure of meeting you on the occasion of the 1st Meeting of D-8 Youth Ministers in such a week celebrated as “the Youth Week" in Türkiye.

I am honored to convey H.E. Our Minister Dr. Osman Aşkın Bak's greetings to you who could not be here today due to leading the Youth Week activities and celebrations held all over Türkiye.

I would like to thank everyone, especially the Bangladesh authorities and the Secretariat of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, making a great effort to the organization of this important meeting.

Distinguished Participants,

We understand better today how much we need justice, dialogue, peace and love, equality, human rights, freedom and democracy which are symbolized by the 6 stars of the D-8 (Developing Eight Countries) Organization.

At this point in time, when humanity desperately needs peace and tranquility, the picture of unity we exhibit is of great value.

Words do not suffice to describe the humanitarian catastrophe occurring in Gaza.

If Israel manages to proceed with its plans on Rafah, we will witness yet another disaster of unspeakable dimension.

We believe that Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people should not go unpunished and all those responsible should be held accountable before the international justice.

All of us, all humanity carry great responsibilities.

We must show that the Muslim world can engage in diplomacy and take compelling action when necessary.

Türkiye has imposed a total trade ban against Israel.

We announced Türkiye's decision to intervene in the genocide case filed by South Africa against Israel a few days ago at the International Court of Justice.

In this respect, I would like to state that we will continue to exert all the effort we can in the international arena, in terms of especially the required humanitarian aid under the leadership of our President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Honourable Ministers, Esteemed Colleagues, Distinguished Representatives,

Preserving solidarity and cooperation within D-8 is also crucial in the face of overlapping crises and rising geopolitical tensions.

We thus wish to see D-8 flourish in the international arena as a powerful voice and a good model for cross-regional economic cooperation.

The solidarity demonstrated by the D-8 Commission in October on the suffering in Gaza has been exemplary in this regard. *(23 Ekim 2023'te Dakka'da gerçekleştirilen D-8 47. Komisyon Toplantısında, "Filistin Halkıyla Dayanışma" başlıklı Bildiri kabul edilmiştir.)*

The will and attitude we will display as the D-8 Youth Public Authorities will set a good example for the whole world in preventing massacres.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Developing Eight Countries (D-8) Organization, which was established under the leadership of Türkiye with the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Istanbul in 1997, is a global structure rather than a regional one.

On this occasion, I commemorate Late Necmettin Erbakan with respect and mercy, who was the founder of the D-8 platform on behalf of our country as the Prime Minister of the time, 13 years after he passed into eternity-

At this point, I would like to share the words of the Venerable Erbakan Hodja, on the meaning and importance of the day: “The real power of a nation is not its cannon, rifle or tank, but its faithful youth.”

The Organization, headquartered in İstanbul and represented in 3 continents, has continued on its way by getting stronger in the quarter century since its establishment.

However, we can not ignore that we still need to make a significant progress.

Distinguished Participants,

Today, D-8 Organization is taking a big step in an important field such as youth with the 1st Youth Ministerial Meeting.

We have the opportunity to serve the youth of the member countries under the umbrella of D-8 (Developing Eight Countries) with the new collaborations we will develop.

In this regard, I consider that the Youth Council, which is planned to be established based in Bangladesh, is valuable.

We support the agreed decisions taken unanimously at the Senior Officials Meeting on all matters, including this one.

We are glad to develop our relations with D-8 countries in the field of youth.

As Türkiye, we attach great importance to the implementation.

In this context, I believe that the most important outcome of this meeting is deciding to carry out a number of activities with our youth on-site.

For this reason, the most important issue we would like to see included in the Dhaka Declaration is for one or two D-8 countries to hold an event related to youth every year starting from 2025.

Our goal is to enable young people to spend time together and to exchange our good practice examples.

At this point, I would like to state that we support and give importance to the launch of the Youth Exchange Program among the D-8 countries as included in the Declaration.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our appreciation for Bangladesh's hard work and tireless efforts during its Chairmanship.

I also wish success to Egypt in their tenure as the new D-8 Chair.

While ending my speech, I would like to inform you that we will deliver a video presentation displaying the youth experience of Türkiye now.

I would like to express my gratitude once again to those who contributed to the organization of this meaningful meeting and to the Bangladesh authorities for

their magnificent hospitality, and I extend my respectful and cordial greetings to you all.