

BRIEF REMARK BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, H.E. AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR IMAM, AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE “TRAINING PROGRAM FOR JUNIOR DIPLOMATS OF THE D-8 MEMBER STATES” ORGANIZED BY THE DIPLOMACY ACADEMY OF REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE FROM 19-25 JUNE, 2022

Prof. Dr. Mesut Ozcan, Director, Diplomacy Academy,

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum Waramatulah Wabarakatuh and a Good Morning to you all.

I warmly welcome all of you to this training programme, specifically organized for Junior Diplomats from D-8 member States by the Diplomacy Academy. Before I proceed, let me seize this opportunity to specially thank the Diplomacy Academy for organizing this training programme and for inviting me to the inaugural ceremony of the programme, which is being organized as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the establishment of D-8 Organization.

This type of training is very important because, in my view, it is in tandem with the spirit of cooperation for which the founding Fathers of D-8 Organization established the Organization 25 years ago. As member states we have to continue to increase the level of our cooperation in all fronts, including training and human resource development. In building institutions that would be able to deliver a prosperous society for all, it is important that we build the capacity of those who

will be charged with the responsibility of managing them to enable them discharge their duties effectively and efficiently.

Dear Participants,

As you are all aware, the Developing-Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation, (D-8) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1997 by eight developing countries namely- **Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkiye**. The Organization was primarily established to promote economic and trade cooperation in six key priority areas namely; **Agriculture, Trade, Industry, Transport, Energy and Tourism**. The Organization is marking its Silver Jubilee having been established 25 years ago on 15 June,1997 here in the City of Istanbul.

Given the rapid changes in the global economic order, the D-8 is changing its dynamics and taking on new challenges in order to remain relevant and attain the vision of its founding Fathers. In this connection, D-8 is now working in new areas of cooperation, namely **Health, Education, Digital Economy, E-Governance, Technology & Innovation, Training and capacity building programs and Youth and Entrepreneurship development** amongst others. Training and capacity building is one of the low-hanging fruits through which we hope to fast-track economic cooperation among the member countries.

Dear Participants,

Over time, diplomacy has remained the vehicle with which State actors conduct their foreign policy and engage with the rest of the world. The art of Diplomacy is a very special type of profession that demands specific skills in addition to vast knowledge of history, politics, geography, economics, cultures and other spheres of human life. At the onset of the 20th century, diplomacy became professionalized through the adoption of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which provides a framework for diplomatic procedures, methods, and conduct.

However, with the emergence of new actors in the global arena and the advent of globalization and rapid development of ICT, diplomatic practices have changed and assumed new dimension across the globe. For instance, in addition to managing traditional diplomatic issues of bilateral nature, diplomats are now challenged with managing emerging issues like climate change & adaptation, migrations, refugee crisis, digital economy, cyber security, propaganda & misinformation etc.

Having gone through all the identified topics to be taught at this training programme, and as a diplomat myself, I can tell you the issues selected for discussion are quite topical and relevant, in terms of sufficiently equipping you in your career. The inclusion of issues such as global impact of COVID-19 on international trade and economic diplomacy and impact of social media on diplomatic practices are noteworthy and commendable. My advice to all trainees is to listen

attentively, as you are taught by your facilitators, digest and internalize all the issues. This would benefit you immensely.

In conclusion, I want to assure all of us that the D-8 Organization is fully committed and determined to encourage human capacity development in all key priority areas, for which our organization was set up. We at the D-8 Organization shall continue to encourage this type of training amongst our member countries in order to build the capacity of those who will manage critical institutions in our Member States.

I want to, once again, thank the Diplomacy Academy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkiye for their tremendous efforts to arrange this training program. I urge the trainees to use the opportunity of the programme to network and exchange views in order to acquire additional knowledge needed as career diplomats.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and look forward to receive you at the Secretariat in Istanbul on Friday 24 June 2022.

Thank you for your attention.