

Joint Declaration of D-8 Business Forum held on the sideline of the 10th D-8 Summit, Dhaka.

April 5, 2021, Dhaka

1. The D-8 Business Forum was organized virtually by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI) in partnership with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and D-8 Chambers of Commerce & Industry (D-8 CCI) on the sideline of the 10th D-8 Summit on April 5, 2021, Dhaka. Representatives from all the national chambers of D-8 countries participated in the business forum as mentioned below;
 - i. The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)
 - ii. Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC)
 - iii. Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN)
 - iv. Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)
 - v. National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM)
 - vi. Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
 - vii. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and
 - viii. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)
2. D-8 Business Forum commemorated the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
3. D-8 Business Forum expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation to The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and especially the President of TOBB Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu for his leadership, commitment and devoted efforts in promoting the D-8 objectives during his Chairmanship of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI). The meeting also commended the good work of TOBB in order to re-invigorate and institutionalize the D-8 CCI by forming close cooperation with D-8 Secretariat. The meeting also expressed its appreciation to the D-8 Secretary-General H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari and his team for prioritizing the engagement of the D-8 business community.

4. As Bangladesh is taking the Chairmanship of D-8 in the 10th D-8 Summit in Dhaka, Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has assumed the term of the presidency of D-8 CCI from Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) for the term of Bangladesh's Chairmanship of D8.
5.
 - a. During the Plenary Session of the D-8 Business Forum, presidency of D-8 CCI was handed over to Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim for the whole term of Bangladesh's Chairmanship of D8.
 - b. Following the Plenary Session, 3 (three) Breakout Sessions were held. 1st Break Out Session was held titled 'Integration of Technology and Innovation among D-8' where representatives from the member national Chambers of D-8 CCI addressed on mutual cooperation among D-8 countries in the areas of integration of science, technology, innovation and high-tech research in business and investment.
 - c. Expert speakers from D-8 countries addressed and placed their recommendations at the 2nd Breakout Session titled 'Youth, MSMEs & Startup Ecosystem, for inclusive growth' and 3rd Breakout Session titled 'Blue Economy, Marine Biotechnology and Resources'.
6. The Business Forum identified the areas of cooperation and meaningful engagement with particular focus on trade and investment through capacity building, technology and knowledge sharing. Business Forum stressed on improvement of connectivity in all D-8 countries as connectivity is the basis of economic integration by interaction.
7. The Business Forum emphasized on mutual cooperation and collaboration for further development of youth, MSMEs & startup ecosystem, halal ecosystem, light engineering, blue economy, marine biotechnology and resources for inclusive growth of D-8 countries.

8. The current Covid-19 outbreak is volatile and its impact on the economy is uncertain. The pandemic impacted lives and global economy. In this situation, D-8 Business Forum stressed on developing an innovative collaboration mechanism among D-8 member states particularly in health sector. The Business Forum shall also endeavour for extensive collaboration for sharing best practices, lessons learned, knowledge and technology.
9. Business Forum shall endeavour to strategize trade recovery through D-8 value chain initiatives of technology transfer, business process, applied skills, science and technology, industry academic linkage, maximizing D-8 nations' impact within each other and beyond based on shared resources and knowledge.
10. Business Forum stressed on involvement of technologies to facilitate trade, investment, production and supply. Present technology trends are dominated by areas such as Fin-tech, Ed-tech, Clean-tech, Health-tech, Agri-tech, e-commerce, etc amongst others. Capacity building and Skills development through collaboration among training institutes among D-8 Member States will have a significant impact on industries in the region.
11. Business Forum emphasized on mechanization, digitization and automation in both quality and quantity of agri production and food security. Meaningful collaboration in the areas of farm-mechanization, food processing, and fisheries and aquaculture would be given priority.
12. Business Forum emphasized to work on potential marine resources for the sustainable evolution of blue-based commercial products. Sustainable use of these marine-based natural products would help in modern-day applications of pharmaceutical and food industries.

13. Dhaka D-8 Business Forum further consolidated economic cooperation among the D-8 communities by boosting intra-trade and working towards achieving higher economic development and benefitting the people of the Member States. An intra-D-8 trade analysis will be carried-out to identify gaps and opportunities / potential areas potential sectors, product groups and/or products that are in the top in terms of their import and export volumes between the D-8 countries.
14. D-8 CCI will follow up the recommendations and make sure that in cooperation with D-8 Secretariat and member chambers an action plan is to be prepared and executed.