

Report of the
45th Session of the D-8 Commission
Dhaka
25-26 July 2022

The 45th Session of the D-8 Commission was held from 25-26 July 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Wahida Ahmed, D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh and Director General of International Organizations Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the meeting. The Commissioners/Delegates from all the Member States attended. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh delivered his opening statement and welcomed the Delegates to the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission. His statement is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Commission considered and adopted the agenda of the meeting which is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3: Statement by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered his statement by welcoming the Commissioners and Delegates to the meeting. The Secretary-General also presented the progress report on the activities of the Organization since November 2021. The statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4- Secretary General will brief the Commission on year-long D-8 Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

The Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, presented the detailed report on yearlong celebrations of the silver jubilee of the organization. The detailed report is attached as **Annex V**.

Agenda Item 5: Statement by the Heads of Delegation of the Member States

The Heads of the Delegation of the Member States delivered their statements.

Agenda Item 6. Update on the Calendar of Events for 2021-2023

The D-8 Secretary-General updated the Commission on the Calendar of Events for 2022-23. He mentioned that so far, we have convened one ministerial meeting since November 2021. He expressed appreciation on the increasing trend of holding D-8 meetings and events despite COVID-19 challenges. He further urged the Member States to increase their participation in meetings and events on sectoral areas of cooperation.

The Commission considered and updated the Calendar of Events for 2022 and 2023.

The Updated Calendar of Events for 2022 and 2023 is attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item 7 - Consideration and approval of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat:

- a) Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2023
- b) Allowance for transportation of household effects at the time of joining and leaving the Secretariat for Directing and Professional Staff
- c) Transportation allowance for Directing and Professional staff
- d) Procurement of a new Vehicle

The Commission discussed the proposed budget for 2023 by the Secretariat and decided the following:

- a) The delegate of Nigeria informed the meeting that the Central Bank of Nigeria paid its assessed contribution for 2022 to Secretariat. The copy of payment remittance would be made available and shared with the Secretariat soon.
- b) The Commission discussed the Secretariat budget for 2023 on the basis of 0% increase and directed the Secretariat to convene a Special Commission meeting in two months' time to present the revised budget proposal for 2023.
- c) The Commission approved the proposal of allowance for transportation of household effects at the time of joining and leaving the Secretariat for Directing and Professional Staff in the budget line of the Secretariat.
- d) The Nigerian delegate proposed that the Secretariat should conduct a study on alternative means of generating funds for the Secretariat and suggested that other international organizations could be studied in that regard.
- e) In focusing to support all D-8 affiliated bodies, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to review the procedure of budgeting and financing affiliated bodies in other international organizations, and submit a report to member states, prior to the Special Commission.
- f) The Commission approved, in principle the request of procurement of the new vehicle and directed the Secretariat as follows:
 - i. Leasing option may be explored to procure the proposed vehicle, provided that Government of Republic of Turkiye grants diplomatic Status for leased Vehicles.
 - ii. A Hybrid vehicle would be given priority while procuring a new vehicle, in view of environmental consideration.

Agenda Item 8- Discussion on appointments of Assistant Director and Program Officer

The Secretary General presented the proposal on appointment of two vacant positions at the Secretariat namely: Assistant Director and Program Officer.

The Commission deliberated on the proposal and agreed on the proposal presented by the Secretary General. The positions will be filled beginning 01 January 2023.

The Commission also agreed on the following:

- a) Budgetary implications of the two posts will be reflected in Secretariat budget starting from 2023.
- b) The alphabetical rotation principle will be followed on appointments of the Directing and Professional Staff for the above posts.
- c) The Assistant Director post will be allocated to Republic of Turkiye and the post of the Program Officer will be allocated to Arab Republic of Egypt.

The delegation of Turkiye informed of its country's desire to have a senior level post on permanent basis at the Secretariat since it is hosting the Secretariat. In this regard, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to formulate a working paper which would cover all areas of concern that need to be addressed pertaining to the statutory documents and submit it to the next session of the Commission for consideration.

Agenda Item 9 - Consideration and adoption of the proposed changes in D-8 Basic Documents.

In line with Article 1.2 of the Staff Regulations of the Basic Document, the Secretariat proposed the amendments in the Basic Documents for consideration and subsequent adoption of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the Secretariat proposal in details. After deliberations, the Commission approved the proposed following:

- a) The post of Media and Protocol Assistant be added in Annex1 (Staff Strength of the D-8 Secretariat) of the Staff Regulations.
- b) The nomenclature of the post of "Research Analyst/Accountant" changed to

“Professional Accountant”.

- c) The nomenclature of the post of “Administrative Officer/Computer Programmer” changed to “ICT Assistant”.
- d) A new portfolio of “Administrative Assistant” assigned to one of the existing posts of Executive Assistant.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration of the Status of the D-8 Legal Instruments

The Secretary-General presented an update on the ratification, implementation and operationalization of the D-8 Legal Instruments.

He commended People’s Republic of Bangladesh for completing procedures related with implementation of D-8 PTA and the deposition of the instrument of ratification to the Secretariat on 24 July 2022.

Arab Republic of Egypt informed the meeting that his country has finalized the process relating to ratification of the D-8 PTA agreement, upon completion of which the instrument of ratification will be submitted to Secretariat.

The Commission also emphasized the need to fully implement the D-8 PTA as well as the Multilateral Agreements on Customs matters and Simplification of the Visa Procedures in order to significantly increase intra-D8 trade, business to business contacts and tourism among Member States.

Agenda Item 11: Progress Report on External Relations.

The Secretary-General presented report on D-8 External Relations and visibility efforts.

The Commission appreciated Secretary-General’s efforts at projecting the D-8 globally in order to enhance partnerships, increase the visibility of D-8 activities and promote the interest as well as improve the position of its members in international affairs. The Commission also urged the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of developing working relations with other regional and global organizations/fora. The Commission also encouraged the Secretary General to devote his resources to develop follow-up mechanism with regard to his international engagements.

Agenda Item 12: Discussion on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization, including the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Secretary-General updated the meeting on the ongoing work on the formulation of the criteria and modalities for accession of new Members and observers into the organization. He invited the Member States to share their views on the criteria and modalities with the Secretariat by 15th August 2022.

He further updated the Commission on his consultations with some interested countries in line with the mandate given to him at the 42nd Session of the Commission. He informed the Commission that the Republic of Azerbaijan has officially applied for membership of the organization on 12 May 2022. In response, the Secretary General had written a letter to the Government of Azerbaijan, requesting to submit country profile, for further consideration of the D-8 Council of Ministers.

The Secretary-General further informed the Commission that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkiye had conveyed their endorsement of membership application received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, through diplomatic Notes.

In line with Article 3 of the D-8 Charter, the Commission acknowledged with appreciation the application of membership received from the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Secretariat will convene a Special Session of the Commission in October 2022 after receiving the proposed criteria and modalities by the member states.

The Commission shall finalize the criteria and modalities before its 46th Session.

Agenda item 13 - Discussions on the proposal of Nigeria for the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council

The Secretary General presented the proposal on the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council received from the Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Meeting welcomed the proposal and decided that there is a need to further develop the idea and tasked the Secretariat to present it to the next Commission meeting.

Agenda item 14 - Discussions on Nigerian Proposal on adequate representation of member states at the D-8 Secretariat.

The Secretary General presented the Secretariat's counter proposal to the concept note proposed by Nigeria in 44th Session of the Commission on adequate representation of member states at the D-8 Secretariat for consideration of the Commission.

The Commission agreed on the following:

- a) To create two additional posts of program officers, so that, all the Member States are represented at the Secretariat.
- b) Budgetary implications of two posts will be reflected in Secretariat budget starting from 2023.
- c) The alphabetical rotation principle will be followed on appointments of professional Staff for the above posts.
- d) The positions should be allocated to countries who are not represented in Secretariat.

The revised proposal is attached as **Annex VII**.

Agenda Item 15- Consideration and discussion on Accreditation of the D-8 Embassies in Ankara to the Organization.

The Secretary General presented the concept note on Accreditation of the D-8 Embassies in Ankara to the Organization for consideration of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the proposal and pointed out that the decision-making mechanism is clearly mentioned in the Charter and we should maintain already agreed decision making mechanism. (Summit, Council and Commission).

Agenda Item 16 - Consideration and endorsement of the applications for facility under the Project Support Fund

The Secretary-General presented 15 project proposals for endorsement of the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the proposals presented by the Secretariat and tasked the Secretariat to engage experts, including, where possible, from D-8 affiliated bodies, in scrutinizing the projects received from the member states. The Commission recommended the Secretariat to follow the Terms of Reference of the Project Support Fund while scrutinizing project proposals.

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to present the updated report at the next Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 17 - Brief on D-8 Special Economic Zones by Bangladesh

The delegate of Bangladesh updated the meeting on establishing the D-8 Special Economic Zones.

The Commissioner of Bangladesh informed that her country is looking into legal aspects of existing rules and regulations of the proposed Special Economic Zones, which would be shared with all member states before the next Commission meeting.

Agenda item 18 - Discussion on Institutionalizing D-8 Diplomatic Training Program

The Secretary General presented the proposal on Institutionalizing D-8 Diplomatic Training Program.

The Commission deliberated upon the proposal and agreed on the following:

- The program will be on alphabetical rotation principle.
- The course content or curriculum of the program would be developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with National Foreign Service Academies.

Agenda item 19: Progress report on the Affiliated Institutions of the D-8

- a. D-8 Health and Social protection Programme office
- b. D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI)
- c. D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN)
- d. D-8 International University
- e. D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation.
- f. D-8 Research Centre for Agriculture and Food Security

The Secretary-General presented the progress reports of the D-8 Affiliated institutions. The Commission appreciated the Secretary-General for his exhaustive collaborative work. The Commission also expressed support for all the affiliated bodies and appreciated Iran, Nigeria and Pakistan for hosting the institutions. The Commissioners also expressed their countries' readiness to work closely with these Institutions.

The Commission called upon the D-8 International University to send their formal request to member states for its accreditation.

The Commission also instructed to Secretariat to approach host member states to suggest appropriate structure for Governing bodies in coordination with the relevant affiliated bodies.

Agenda Item 20: Consideration and adoption of Private Sector initiatives

- a. D-8 Payment card
- b. D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC)
- c. D-8 Barter Trading System

The Secretary-General presented progress report on the above-mentioned initiatives to the Commission for its consideration.

The Commission agreed that work on these strategic initiatives should be expedited. Relevant national authorities such as Payment departments of Central Banks be included alongside project proponents engaged by the Secretariat.

The Commission recommended the Secretariat to work towards a definite outcome of the initiatives in two years' time.

Agenda Item 21: Discussion and finalization of the Draft Agenda and Programme of Work of the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers

The Secretariat presented the Draft Agenda and Programme of Work of the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers for consideration and subsequent adoption of the Commission.

The Commission deliberated and adopted the revised agenda and programme of work of the 20th Council of Minister meeting.

Agenda Item 22: Date and Venue of the Next D-8 Commission Meeting

Bangladesh proposed to host the 46th Session of the Commission tentatively in January 2023 in Dhaka.

Agenda Item 23: Any Other Business

The delegation of Nigeria presented the proposal to host the D-8 SME Center in Abuja.

The Commission welcomed the proposal and tasked the Secretariat to share its views on the proposal with member states for consideration at the next Commission.

Agenda Item 24: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission

The Commission considered and adopted the Report of its 45th Session.

Agenda Item 25: Adjournment of the Meeting

The Chairperson commended the participants for their valuable contributions and fruitful discussions. She called for early action to be taken on all matters deliberated upon at the meeting so that progress can be made.

The Commissioners and heads of delegations also appreciated the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting. They also thanked the Chairperson for her competent handling of the proceedings of the meeting and Secretariat for its excellent work and support in organizing the 45th Session of the Commission.

The Secretary-General also thanked the Chairperson and the Commissioners for the meeting outcome. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh for excellent arrangements as well as the staff of the D-8 Secretariat for their hard work.

The 45th Session of the Commission was adjourned on 26 July, 2022.

Delegation List for the 45th Commission meeting
25-26 July 2022
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh	
1.	H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bangladesh
2.	H.E. Ms. Wahida Ahmed (HOD) Director General (International Organizations) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bangladesh
3.	Mr. Md. Shakil Sahrior Director (International Organizations)
4.	Ms. Shaila Shama SAS (International Organizations)
Egypt	
5.	H.E Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Regional and International Economic Affairs and Organizations(HOD and D8 Commissioner) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6.	Minister Plenipotentiary Mrs Ibtesam Rakha Hassan Deputy Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs for Regional Economic Communities and Organizations
Indonesia	
7.	H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat Director General for Multilateral Cooperation Affairs (D8 Commissioner) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Indonesia
8.	Ms. Orchida Sekarratri First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia
9.	Ary Aprianto Minister Counselor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10.	Yudanto Wibowo Suparmono First Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11.	Monita Purba Attache at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Iran	

12.	H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari Director General of the Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iran- D8 Commissioner
13.	Mrs. Neda Alikhani Expert, Multilateral Economic Cooperation, MFA
14.	Mr. Milad Sadrkhanlou, the Chief Secretary of the D8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8TTN)
Malaysia	
15.	H.E. Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil Bin Mohd Riza D-8 Commissioner Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Malaysia
16.	Mr. Mohd Zhafrie Johari Assistant Secretary (D-8) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
Nigeria	
17.	H.E. Mr Ahmed Sule High Commissioner of Nigeria to India
18.	Mr. Murtala Jimoh Director GIU Unit Ministry of Foreign Affairs Federal Republic of Nigeria
19.	Zayyad Abdussalam Minister, Embassy of Nigeria, Ankara, Türkiye
20.	Mr. Ahmed Tijani Senior Counsellor (Political) High Commission of Nigeria in India
21.	Mr. Aliyu Jika (Head of Immigration) High Commission of Nigeria in India

Pakistan	
22.	H.E. Mr. Farrukh Iqbal Khan Director General for Organization for Islamic Cooperation and Economic Diplomacy (OIC&ED) D-Commissioner Ministry of Foreign Affairs+ D8 Commissioner Pakistan
23.	Mr. Chaudhury Jawad Ali Chatha Director (OIC & ED)
Türkiye	
24.	Ambassador Esen Altug Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye D-8 Commissioner
25.	Pelin Merve Selek Third Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye
D-8 Secretariat	
26.	H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam Secretary General, D8 Secretariat
27.	Mr. Ahmar Ismail Director I (Administrative, Legal and Administrative Issues) D8 Secretariat
28.	Mr. Md. Biplob Tarafder Program Officer D8 Secretariat
29.	Mr. Muhammad Bilal Khan Executive Assistant
30.	Mr. Ilham Uludag Medical & Protocol Officer

Agenda
45th Session of the D-8 Commission
25-26 July 2022

1. Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda
3. Statement and progress report on activities since November 2021 by the D-8 Secretary-General
4. Secretary General will brief the Commission on year-long D-8 Silver Jubilee Celebrations
5. Statement by the Heads of Delegation of Member States (Five Minutes each)
6. Update on the Calendar of Events for 2022-2023
7. Consideration and approval of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat:
 - a) Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2023
 - b) Allowance for transportation of household effects at the time of joining and leaving the Secretariat for Directing and Professional Staff
 - c) Transportation allowance for Directing and Professional staff
 - d) Procurement of a new Vehicle
8. Discussion on appointments of Assistant Director and Program Officer
9. Consideration and adoption of the proposed changes in D-8 Basic Documents
10. Consideration of the status of the D-8 Legal Instruments
11. Progress report on External Relations
12. Discussion on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization including the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan
13. Discussions on the proposal of Nigeria for the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council
14. Discussions on Nigerian Proposal on adequate representation of member states at the D-8 Secretariat.
15. Consideration and discussion on Accreditation of the D-8 Embassies in Ankara to the Organization

16. Endorsement of applications for facility under the Project Support Fund
17. Brief on D-8 Special Economic Zones by Bangladesh
18. Discussion on Institutionalizing D-8 Diplomatic Training Program
19. Progress report on the Affiliate Institutions of the D-8
 - a. D-8 Health and Social protection Programme office
 - b. D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI)
 - c. D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN)
 - d. D-8 International University
 - e. D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation. (D-8 NPRI)
 - f. D-8 Research Center for Agriculture
20. Progress reports on the following initiatives
 - a. D-8 Payment card
 - b. D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC)
 - c. D-8 Barter Trading system
21. Discussions and finalization of the draft agenda and Programme of Work of the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers
22. Date and Venue of the Next D-8 Commission Meeting
23. Any Other Business
24. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission
25. Closing of the Meeting

**OPENING STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, H.E.
AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR IMAM, AT THE 45TH SESSION
OF THE D-8 COMMISSION HELD IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH FROM
25-26 JULY, 2022.**

Honourable Chairman,

Distinguished Commissioners,

Excellencies,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and Asalam o Alaikum to all,

First of all, I feel greatly delighted to warmly welcome Your Excellencies to the 45th Session of the meeting of the D-8 Commission.

As you are aware, this marks my first physical interaction with Distinguished Commissioners, since I assumed duty at the Secretariat as Secretary General of our noble organization on 1 January, 2022. I would, therefore, like to thank all of you for endorsing my candidature unanimously at the 10th D-8 Summit. I also would like to welcome our new colleague and D-8 Commissioner from Indonesia, **H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat**, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

Let me also thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, being the host of this meeting, for the wonderful reception accorded my delegation since our arrival here in Dhaka few days ago. We also express appreciation to the Government and the officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh for the excellent arrangement made in organize the Commission and the Council Meetings.

I would like to commend the President of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, and his team for the arrangements being made to organize the D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event, in commemoration of the silver jubilee celebrations of the D-8 organization.

Distinguished Commissioners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and pleasure for me to present the Progress Report on activities of the Organization since November 2021. Since I assumed duty, my Directing Staff and I at the Secretariat had undertaken several programmes and activities, successfully. However, I would not want to bore you with the listing of the activities and events we have had; rather instead I will draw attention to important ones, which I believe call for the attention of the distinguished Commission.

Upon assumption at the D-8 Secretariat, I set to work in repositioning the office to make it more effective and efficient in the delivery of its mandate, as set out in the Charter establishing the organization. Part of what I intend to achieve, and very close to my heart, is the twin-approaches of my vision of increased intra-D8 trade relations amongst member countries, as the organization enters into the lifecycle of its project implementations; and secondly is increasing visibility for the organization in member states and beyond, through project implementation and partnership with the Organized Sector and our Development Partners.

In furtherance of my vision for the organization, in the past six months of being in the saddle, I undertook several visits to international organizations both in and outside the Republic of Turkiye, with the purpose of establishing stronger partnerships and cooperation for mutual benefits. In this connection, new Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) are being signed, while existing ones are

being reviewed for mutual benefits. Within this short period of being in office, I also paid official visits to a number of D-8 member countries to have productive engagement with our leaders in government, the business community and other stakeholders, with a view to charting a new course for the organization.

I also participated in international conferences and seminars to further strengthen our existing relations with International Institutions and also increase the visibility of the organization at international platforms. For example, on the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkiye, I participated at the 2nd Antalya Diplomacy Forum, which was held in March, 2022 in Antalya, Turkiye. Furthermore, I attended FAO Regional Conference for Eastern Europe in Poland in May, 2022, on the invitation of the Director General of FAO. I made presentation on the D-8 Organization, and called for collaboration between FAO and D-8 in the area of agriculture and food security.

The detailed Progress Report, for the period under report, is attached as Annex 3.1, for Your Excellencies, consideration.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am happy to report to this August gathering that we have made significant progress in the area of trade cooperation, which is the cornerstone of our organization. I am pleased to inform Your Excellencies that the Trade Facilitation Strategy of the PTA was finalized on 16 November, 2021, while negotiation of the protracted Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the PTA was equally successfully concluded on 20 April, 2022.

Both documents, which are central to the smooth implementation of the PTA, are expected to be adopted in the next Session of the D8 Trade Ministers Meeting, which is expected to be hosted during the Presidency of Bangladesh. All Member States have now set 31st October 2022 as the kick-off date for full operationalization of the

PTA. With these positive developments, we are now close to the full implementation of D-8 PTA Agreement, as most of the outstanding issues have been resolved.

We at the Secretariat are also taking practical steps to enhance the Organization's financial and payment systems in order to support trade cooperation. In this regard, I am pleased to inform the Commission that D-8 is in the process of developing a comprehensive ecosystem to enable our people achieve financial and economic independence through the development of payment products such as **D-8 Payment Card system, D-8 Clearing House, D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center, and D-8 Barter Trading System**. These initiatives, which are still being developed, are useful tools to settle our trade balances and reduce the pressure on our foreign exchange reserves and achieve the target economic independence.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are aware, D-8 is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its establishment this year. During this short journey, our organization has recorded some modest achievements, especially in the area of establishment of the required Legal Framework and Structures in the key priority areas of cooperation. To mark the silver Jubilee celebration of the Organization, the D-8 Secretariat had recommended and subsequently enjoined member states to organize various activities to commemorate the occasion in their respective countries, including the Secretariat.

In this regard, I would like to inform Your Excellencies that the following events were held, while some are in the pipeline in member states and the Secretariat:

- i. D-8 Investment Forum and a Silver Jubilee Reception, held on 16 June, 2022 in Istanbul, Turkiye.**
- ii. Junior Diplomatic Training programme, held from 19-25 June ,2022 in Ankara, Turkiye.**

- iii. D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event, holding from 25-27 July,2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**
- iv. D8 Culture and Food Show, planned for September, 2022 in Istanbul, Turkiye.**
- v. D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises scheduled in Abuja, Nigeria from 23-24 August 2022.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The adopted agenda, placed in front of you, contains a number of important issues to be deliberated and decided. Among such important issues is the 25 Anniversary of the establishment of the Organization. We plan to organize a number of events all-round the year to mark the formation of the Organization. The detailed report on proposed events will be discussed under Agenda item No. 4.

Under agenda Item 6 the Commission will deliberate upon the Calendar of events for review and update.

Under Agenda item 7, we will discuss financial and administrative matters, including the next year's budget, proposed allowances and purchase of new vehicle of the Secretariat.

After that, the Commission will discuss and may finalize the vacant positions of Assistant Director and Program officer, under item 8.

Under agenda item 9, the Commission will deliberate upon a number of updates in the basic documents, as suggested by the Secretariat.

An updated table showing the status of legal instruments is placed before the Commission for its consideration and updates, under agenda item No. 10.

In next agenda item No. 11, a progress report on External relations is placed before the Commission, for review.

Republic of Azerbaijan has formally applied for Membership of the organization. This matter will be deliberated upon under Agenda Item No. 12.

A proposal from Nigeria for establishment of a Youth Council will be deliberated upon, under agenda item number 13.

Nigeria's proposal on adequate representation from member states at the Secretariat will be discussed, under agenda item number 14.

We consider this issue important, given the current manpower shortage in the secretariat and need to strengthen the Secretariat to make it more robust than it currently is.

Under agenda item number 15, the Commission would consider and discuss the matter of accrediting D8 Embassies in Ankara to the organization.

The Commission will deliberate upon and may approve short listed project proposals, as received from member States.

Progress reports on D-8 Affiliate Institutions as well as D-8 Initiatives will be presented for consideration of the Commission under Agenda item 19 and 20, respectively.

The Commission is invited to discuss and finalize the Draft Agenda of the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers, under Agenda Item No. 21.

Date and Venue of the next Commission meeting will be discussed, under agenda item 22.

Honorable Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you could see, we have a long list of decisions and discussions to engage us in the next two days. Therefore, I would urge all respected Commissioners to indulge in constructive discussions during the course of the next two days, so that we have a worthwhile report to present to the Council of Ministers, for their consideration and approval.

Before I conclude my remarks, let me raise the issue of salary increase for the staff at the Secretariat, which had earlier been tabled

but a consensus could not be reached on the matter. I want to appeal to Your Excellencies to revisit this issue of salary increase as an urgent matter for consideration, to serve as a motivation for the staff of the Secretariat.

On that note, I would like to, on my own behalf, as well as on behalf of the Secretariat staff, express my utmost gratitude for the kind support and cooperation from Member States, particularly since my assumption of duty six months ago. My staff and I look forward to your further support and cooperation to enable us deliver on our mandate.

I thank you for your attention.

REPORT ON THE YEAR-LONG D-8 SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The D-8 Organization clocked 25 years of its establishment on 15 June, 2020. To mark the silver Jubilee celebration of the Organization, the D-8 Secretariat had recommended and subsequently enjoined member states to organize various activities to commemorate the occasion in their respective countries, including the Secretariat.

Accordingly, the following events were held, while some are in the pipeline in member states and the Secretariat:

- i. **D-8 Investment Forum and a Silver Jubilee Reception, Istanbul, Turkiye, 16 June, 2022.**
- ii. **Junior Diplomatic Training programme, 19-25 June, Ankara, Turkiye, June, 2022.**
- iii. **Leaders and Former Secretary General's Messages**
- iv. **D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event, 25-27 July, 2022, Dhakar, Bangladesh.**
- v. **D8 Culture and Food Show, Istanbul, Turkiye, 13 August, 2022**
- vi. **D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (D-8 Forum on SMEs), Abuja, Nigeria 23-24 August 2022**

D-8 Investment Forum

The D-8 Secretariat marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation on 16 June 2022 in Wyndham Grand Istanbul Levent hotel. In this regard, the D-8 organized an Investment Forum and a Silver Jubilee Reception, in association with the Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkiye (TOBB), as part of events to mark the silver jubilee celebrations.

The Investment Forum was attended by dignitaries from the Public and Private sectors of member countries, including the Honourable Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkiye, H.E. **Mehmet Muş**, the Federal Minister of Board of Investment of Pakistan, H.E. **Chaudhry Salik Hussain**, D-8 Ambassadors to Turkiye, Heads of Investment Agencies of the member states, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI)

and Presidents of all the National Chambers of Commerce and Industries from D-8 member states.

At the Opening Ceremony of the D-8 Investment Forum, the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, expressed deep appreciation to H.E. **Mehmet Muş**, Honourable Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and H.E. **Chaudhry Salik Hussain**, Federal minister of Board of Investment of Pakistan as well as D-8 Ambassadors to Türkiye for gracing the event. He also thanked Heads of Investment Agencies of the member states, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) and Presidents of all the National Chambers of Commerce and Industries from D-8 member states and Public and Private Sector representatives for their active and meaningful participation at the forum.

Sequel to the opening remarks, the Heads of the Investment Agencies of the D-8 countries made presentations on the various investment opportunities that are available in their respective countries. Presentations were made by the Heads of the Investment Agencies of Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Türkiye, while the Ambassador of Bangladesh presented the investment opportunities that are available in Bangladesh on behalf of the Head of Investment Promotion Agency of Bangladesh.

The presentations were made to over 100 participants drawn largely from the private sector of Türkiye and some member countries. They highlighted the investment opportunities that are available in the D-8 member countries in the hope of attracting investment and promoting intra-trade in the D8 member countries. Generally, the presentations were mostly made in Power-Point format and had indicated that investment opportunities were available in the following key economic sectors of the member countries:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Tourism
- Agriculture and Food processing
- Water resource development

The President of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Sheikh Fazle Fahim, made a detailed presentation on "Strategies to improve the value chain among D-8 Member States". He highlighted the bottlenecks of the current value chain mechanism among the D-8 member States and presented strategies and proposals to improve the value chain mechanism and promote intra trade among the member states. He indicated that in order to improve the value chain mechanism member states should strive to streamline the six broad area of Value Chain, namely

- i. Commodities such as mineral and energy
- ii. Labor-intensive goods such as Textiles, Apparel, light engineering and Leather products
- iii. Labor-intensive services such as Transportation, agriculture Hospitality, Healthcare, Human resource development
- iv. Regional processing such as Agriculture, Aquaculture, Livestock
- v. Knowledge-intensive goods such as Electronics components, semicon, cybersecurity equipment components, logistics and transportation equipment
- vi. Knowledge-intensive services such as Professional services in ICT, enabling technology across economic sectors, 4IR, Robotics, AI, IOT, Cyber Securities, Skills and R&D.

Avrasya Barter of Turkiye and D-8 are currently exploring the possibility of establishing D-8 Barter trading system to provide an alternate solution for settling the trade balances and development of sustainable economic programme in the D-8 Member States. The initiative, which has been presented to the Commission, is still being developed.

In that regard, and in order to throw more light on the initiative, Representative of Avrasya Barter, Mr. Himmet Karadag, presented the proposed D-8 Barter Trading system model at the D-8 Investment Forum. The presentation gave a background information on Avrasya Barter, including its experience with the barter trading system in Turkiye.

Mr. Karadag highlighted the current stage of development of the proposed D8 Barter System and indicated that the process for implementation among

the D-8 Member State's public and private sector would hopefully include following key features amongst others:

- D-8 Barter Clearing House
- Online Portal for Trading
- Barter Payments Settlement Mechanism

A panel, comprising of Presidents of National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of D8 countries, held during the D8 Investment Forum and discussed the topic "How to improve intra D-8 trade". The panel, which was moderated by TOBB President Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, expressed deep concern with the low level of intra-D8 trade, 25 years after the establishment of the organization.

Panellists and participants alike identified the following constraints as factors hindering the smooth flow-of trade among D-8 countries:

- Lack of implementation of the D-8 PTA;
- Lack of completion of the internal procedure of the D-8 PTA by some member countries;
- antidumping duties in place in some member states;
- additional import taxation regime in some member states;
- supply chain constraints; and
- cumbersome customs clearance procedures.

The panellists and participants alike made the following sets of recommendations on measures to enhance intra-trade in D8 countries.

- Immediate and full implementation of the D8 PTA by all member states, without further delay.
- Member states were enjoined to relax their visa regime especially for business community in line with the **"Agreement of Simplification of Visa Procedure for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States"** signed by all member states on 24 February 2001 in Cairo.
- Establishment of Special Economic Zones in D-8 member states to enable manufacturers within these zones enjoy the privilege of exporting to other D8 countries without tariffs or allocation of special quotas;

- Establishment of an annual D8 Trade Fair to enhance private sector engagements among the member countries.

Silver Jubilee Reception

In continuation of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of D-8 organization for Economic Cooperation, a reception co-hosted between the Organization and the Union of Chambers of Commodity Exchange of Türkiye (TOBB) was held in Istanbul on 16 June, 2022. The reception was graced by dignitaries, Ministers, Heads of Chambers of Commerce, Heads of Investment Agencies, Ambassadors / Consuls-General and Representatives from private sectors.

In his address of welcome at the occasion, the Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, laid out various achievements of the organization since its inception in 1997, and congratulated member countries for having come thus far. He listed those achievements to include, though not limited to, the D-8 Charter, the Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), the D-8 Agreement on simplification of Visa procedures and the Multi-lateral Agreements among D-8 Countries on Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters. All these are in a bid to promote trade and economic activity to engender economic independence.

Speaking at the reception, the Deputy President of TOBB, Mr. Tamer Kiran, expressed the support of his organization for all actions and activities that would help to sustain better and conducive business environment, enhance trade and strengthen infrastructure for improve connectivity.

In his remark, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye, who was the Special Guest, H.E. Faruk Kaymakci, urged D- 8 Countries to come together and focus more on the problems the world is facing today with the aim of finding solutions. He went to say that D-8 with a combined population of 1.1 billion people could make a difference in the world if they could build their values on cooperation, equality and justice.

One of the highlights of the grand reception was the signing of MoU between the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Turkish Radio and

Television, TRT, with a view of enhancing and developing cooperation between the two organizations in various fields to improve and promote visibility of the D-8. While the Secretary General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam signed for the D-8, Prof. Dr Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Director General, signed for TRT.

Another high point of the event was the award ceremony to honour organizations that have contributed to the success of D-8 Organization in the 25 years of its existence. Such institutions honoured are, Anadolu Agency, (AA), Islamic Development Bank Group, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, TEPAV, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), The Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Türkiye (TOBB).

Junior Diplomatic Training programme, Türkiye

The Government of the Republic of Türkiye, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a week-long training programme for Junior diplomats from D-8 member countries as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of the Organization.

The training program covered courses on diplomatic skills such as, protocol and negotiations, and included topical issues like global impact of COVID-19 on international trade and economic diplomacy, impact of social media on diplomatic practices and international commercial diplomacy, amongst others. The trainees were issued with certificates at the end of the programme. They also paid a courtesy call on the D-8 Secretariat.

D-8 Leaders and Former Secretary General's Messages:

On the occasion of the silver jubilee of the organization, the Secretariat also received goodwill messages from some of the Honourable Leaders of the Member States as well as former Secretary Generals of the organization to mark the 25th anniversary celebrations.

D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event

The D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be organizing the above-mentioned events as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the Organization. The events will hold on the margins of the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Council of Ministers Meeting from 25 to 27 July, 2022. The events are expected to attract participants from the public and private sectors of the member countries.

D8 Culture and Food Show, Istanbul, Turkiye

In continuation of the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the D-8 Organization, the D-8 Secretariat will be organizing the above-mentioned event in Istanbul on Saturday 10 September, 2022. The Secretariat, in collaboration with D-8 Missions in Turkiye, will organize the event which will comprise of cultural activities such as food show, music, photo exhibitions etc aimed at promoting the culture and tourism potentials of the D-8 Organization in order to position the D8 countries as the preferred tourist destinations.

D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (D-8 Forum on SMEs), Abuja, Nigeria 23-24 August 2022

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN) of Nigeria has proposed to host a D-8 Forum on SMEs on 23-24 August 2022 in Abuja Nigeria.

The Forum is being organized inline with the request from the D-8 Secretariat to Member States to organize the events at their national level as part of the silver jubilee celebrations of the organization.

D-8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-23

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
Meeting on Dispute Settlement Mechanism Document	April 2022	Secretariat	Held
1st Ministerial Meeting on Health	2022	Nigeria	Proposed
Inauguration of D-8 Research Center	2022	Pakistan	TBC
Inaugural Meeting on D-8 SEZ	2022 - 2023	Bangladesh	TBC
3 rd Customs Official Meeting on D-8 PTA	2022	Bangladesh	Held
7 th Meeting of Supervisory Committee on D-8 PTA	2022	Bangladesh	Confirmed
3 rd Trade Ministers Council	2022	Bangladesh	Confirmed
D8 – WCO Joint training program on e-commerce crimes	6-10 June 2022	Secretariat	Postponed
D8- UNCTAD joint webinar on Investment and Climate Change	June 2022	Secretariat	Held
1st Ministerial Meeting on Transportation	2022	Turkey	TBC
4th Senior Officials and 3rd D-8 Ministerial meeting on Tourism	October 2022	Pakistan	Confirmed
Special Commission Meeting to Discuss on the granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization	October 2022	Virtual	Confirmed

25 th Silver Jubilee Celebrations Reception	16 June 2022	Secretariat/Istanbul	Held
1 st D8 Investment Forum in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee	16 June 2022	Secretariat/Istanbul	Held
45th Session of the D-8 Commission	25-26 July 2022	Bangladesh	Held
2 nd General Assembly of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Business Summit, Expo and multi-cultural event	25-27 July 2022	Bangladesh	Held
20th Council of Ministers	27 July 2022	Bangladesh	Held
D-8 Cultural and Tourism Event in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee	13 August 2022	Secretariat	TBC
D-8 Forum on Small Medium Scale Enterprises	23-24 August 2022	Nigeria	Confirmed
3 rd Board of Trustee Meeting of the D-8 International University	2022	D-8 International University	Confirmed
D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) Meeting	October 2022	COMSATS University Islamabad	Confirmed
Meeting of the D-8 Working Group to tackle the Economic Adversities of Covid-19	2023	Bangladesh	Proposed
1st D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Energy	TBA	Iran	TBC
7th Ministerial meeting on D-8 Industrial Cooperation	TBA	Nigeria	TBC

4th Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on the implementation of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures	2023	Bangladesh	Proposed
8th Supervisory Committee Meeting of D-8 PTA	TBA	Secretariat	TBC
12th D-8 Meeting of Directors-General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation	18-19 October 2022	Indonesia	Confirmed
8th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	2023	TBC	TBC
46th Session of the D-8 Commission	Jan 2023	Bangladesh	TBC
1 st Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings of D-8 youth	2022	Bangladesh	Proposed
47 th D-8 Commission Meeting 21 Council of Ministers Meeting	2023	Bangladesh	Proposed
48 th D-8 Commission Meeting 22 Council of Ministers Meeting 11 th D-8 Summit	April 2024	Egypt	TBC
5 th Technology Investment Meeting	Feb 2023	Iran	Confirmed
7 th High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN	Dec 2022	Egypt	TBC
3 rd D-8 technology transfer Award	September 2022	Turkiye	Confirmed

TBA: To be Announced

TBC: To be Confirmed

**SECRETARIAT'S COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THE CONCEPT NOTE ON
ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER STATES AT THE D – 8
SECRETARIATS.**

The Secretariat wishes to recall the Concept Note received from the Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria proposing that each member state should have adequate representational staff at the D – 8 Secretariat either on Secondment or Salary Basis in line with international best practices.

It is further recalled that the Concept Note from Nigeria had advanced the following advantages for the proposed new structure:

- To create more visibility for our Organisation and invariably make it more viable in the 21st century;
- To create more sense of belonging, aura of hope, and a spirit of economic camaraderie amongst member states;
- To enhance communication with member states through their representational staff at the Secretariat;
- To ensure that each member state has an equal stake in the Organisation;
- To lessen the burden of work on the few members of Secretariat, thereby, making the economic thrusts of the Organisation more effective when all hands are on deck;

In line with the Decision of the 44th Commission stating inter-alia that “The Commission welcomed the concept note submitted by Nigeria and agreed to discuss further on the modalities of adequate representation from member states, based on the draft formulated by the Secretariat”, the Secretariat wishes to make the following two options and ensuing recommendations to the esteemed Commission, for consideration:

Option A

- i. That two new areas of sectoral cooperation be established in the Organization, namely **Health and Social Protection** and **Youth, Education & ICT**, to bring the number of sectoral areas of cooperation to eight, formally.
- ii. That 2 Programme Officers from Malaysia and Iran be appointed to take up positions in the Secretariat, for a non- renewable term of 4 years, as soon as possible.
- iii. If approved, that alphabetical rotation principle may be followed on appointments for non-renewable term of 4 years from among the qualified candidates nominated by Member states.

Budgetary Allocation/Implication:

The remuneration and other costs of two additional posts may be part of the Secretariat budget, since all the posts will be regular posts at the Secretariat.

Therefore, the following proposed salary package will be added to the Secretariat budget.

Remuneration Package for each Proposed programme Officer:

Salary per annum:	21 600 €
Housing per annum:	18 000 €
Medical Allowance: per annum	6 000 €
Total Package per annum:	45 600 €

Grand Total for the 2 Programme Officers 91,200 EUR