

Draft Report of the  
44<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission  
08-09 November 2021

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The 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission was held from 08-09 November 2021 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Wahida Ahmed, Director General of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. H.E Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary, West and ICT of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh opened the meeting. The Commissioners/Delegates from all the Member States attended. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

**Agenda Item 2: Statement by the Chair**

H.E Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury delivered his statement and welcomed the Delegates to the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission. His statement is attached as **Annex II**.

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

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

**Agenda Item 4: Progress Report on D-8 Activities by Secretary General**

The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari 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 April 2021. The statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

**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. The Statements are attached as **Annex V**.

**Agenda Item 6. Discussions and finalization of the draft agenda of the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers**

The Secretary General presented the draft agenda for 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers, scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in Dhaka. The Chair invited comments from participants. The delegates did not suggest any amendments; however, it was decided that the draft Agenda will be updated in the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission, scheduled on 16-17 May 2022 in Dhaka just before the 20<sup>th</sup> Council of



Minister's meeting, reflecting the developments by that time.

The Draft Agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers is attached as **Annex VI**.

### **Agenda Item 7. Update on the Calendar of Events for 2021-2023**

The Secretary-General presented the updated Calendar of events for consideration of the Commission. After comprehensive discussions, Indonesia committed to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation in December 2021. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to physically host the Third Tourism Ministers' Meeting in April 2022 in Islamabad, preceded by the 4<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation. Bangladesh committed to host all the events suggested in the Calendar of events as circulated earlier to Member States.

The updated Calendar of events is attached as **Annex VII**.

### **Agenda Item 08: Consideration and Adoption of the Proposed Budget for 2022**

The Secretary-General presented the Secretariat's revised budget proposal for the year 2022 for the consideration of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the budget proposal for enhancement of the Salaries of the Secretariat Staff. The meeting proposed to increase the Secretariat budget for 2022 by a maximum of 10%, which will be financed from the General Reserve Fund account of the Secretariat for the 2022 budget only and the Member States will not pay any additional contributions for the 2022 budget. The subsequent budgets from 2023 onwards will be proposed with calculated increase in the Member States' contributions.

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to analyze the inflationary trend in line with the exchange rate parity from 2016 onwards. The Secretariat was also mandated to approach other International Organizations in Istanbul with a view to comparing remuneration packages (based on available data). The Secretariat will seek the assistance of the host Government in acquiring the relevant data from reliable sources.

The Secretariat will submit the revised budget proposal based on the above criteria to the Member States by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The budget will be approved through silence procedure latest by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. In the absence of consensus, the Article VI of the financial regulations will be enforced until the Member States agree on the new budget.

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to come up with an investment proposal, in line with legal and financial guidance, and in consultation with and inputs from the Member States, to effectively manage the General Reserve Fund account of the Secretariat.

The Commission endorsed the extension period of the former Director Mr. Nasir Aminu (March-08 August 2021).



## **Agenda Item 09 - Discussions on the proposal of the Operational Budget for D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office (D-8 HSP)**

The Secretary General presented the budget proposal for D-8 HSP for the year of 2022.

The Commission discussed and proposed to finance the D-8 HSP budget for 2022 from the General Reserve Fund account of the Secretariat after submission of revised budget from the D-8 HSP which will be agreed through the silence procedure latest by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The Commission also decided that the amount of the 2022 budget for D-8 HSP would not exceed from the budgetary contribution amounting to 167,651 euros made by the Government of Nigeria in 2021.

It was also proposed that all future developmental budgets from 2023 and onwards, including the D-8 HSP budget, will be presented to the Commission as part of the Secretariat's budget.

## **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 Republic of Indonesia and Federal Republic of Nigeria for completing the ratification procedure of the D-8 Charter and depositing the instruments of ratification with the Secretariat on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 respectively.

Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SME Governmental Bodies and notify the Secretariat accordingly.

Bangladesh committed to share the specimen of the custom stamp with the Secretariat as soon as possible.

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 to significantly increase intra-D-8 trade, business to business contacts and tourism among Member States.

## **Agenda Item 11- Update on D-8 Working Group to tackle the Economic Adversities of Covid 19**

The Chair presented the updated concept note on D-8 Working Group to tackle the Economic Adversities of Covid 19 including the comments received from the Member States.

The Commission discussed and agreed to establish the Working Group on adhoc basis.

The Commission approved the concept note with few amendments as attached as **Annex VIII**.



### **Agenda Item 12: 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 to enhance partnerships, increase the visibility of D-8 activities and promote the interest as well as improve the position of its members at the international level. The Commission also urged the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of developing working relations with other regional and global organizations/fora.

### **Agenda Item 13: Discussion on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization**

The Secretary-General updated the meeting on his consultations with some interested countries in line with the mandate given to him at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission. He informed the Commission that he has provided interested countries with relevant information on the Organization and the accession procedures. He further briefed the Commission on the concept note drafted by the Secretariat.

Thereafter, the delegate of Turkey briefed the meeting on the matter and reminded about the proposal made by H.E President Erdogan to expand the membership of the Organization at the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit, referring to the task given to the Secretary-General in this regard.

The delegations of Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, and Nigeria emphasized the need to set criteria for the accession of new Members into the Organization as well as granting observer status to those interested.

The Commission directed the Secretariat to convene a second meeting of the Working Group in 2022 to work out the modalities and criteria for accession of new members and granting observer status and other relevant issues.

The updated Concept Note on accession of new members and granting observer status and permitting them into the organization will be circulated by the Secretariat before the second meeting of the Working Group.

### **Agenda Item 14: Discussions on Introduction of the Candidate for Director II position which shall be vacant in June 2022.**

The Chair invited Republic of Indonesia to introduce their nomination for the post of Director II, replacing the present Director II from Arab Republic of Egypt (the post is rotated on alphabetical order).



The delegate from Indonesia informed the Commission that they are in process in finalizing the best available candidate and the nomination will be shared with the Secretariat in due course.

### **Agenda Item 15: Consideration and endorsement of the applications for facility under the Project Support Fund**

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

The Commission took a note on the proposals presented by the Secretariat.

Proposal submitted by ISC was endorsed. The proposal submitted by D-8 TTEN will be reviewed and revised in consultation with the D-8 Secretariat in line with the criteria mentioned in Terms of Reference of the Project Support Fund to be submitted in the next Commission for its consideration.

The proposal is attached as **Annex: IX**.

### **Agenda item 16: 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.

### **Agenda Item 17: Consideration and adoption of initiatives**

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

The Secretary-General presented the above-mentioned initiatives to the Commission for its adoption.

The Commission welcomed and supported the D-8 Payment Card presented by the Secretary General and directed the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the relevant authorities such as the Central Banks and Ministries of Finance of the Member States to discuss the matter in detail.

The observations made by the delegate of Pakistan on the matter of D-8 Payment card is attached as **Annex X**.



The Commission pointed out that more work needs to be done on D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center. Consultations with the relevant authorities and agencies of the Member States should continue and legal and institutional procedures must be followed.

#### **Agenda Item 18: Discussion on D-8 Special Economic Zones**

The Secretary General invited the delegation of Bangladesh to update the meeting on initiative of the D-8 Special Economic Zones.

Bangladesh expressed its readiness to offer their Special Economic Zones (SEZ) for investment by other Member States. It also committed to host the inaugural meeting of the relevant authorities of the Member States on the D-8 Special Economic Zones in 2022 followed by second meeting hosted by Iran.

#### **Agenda Item 19: Any Other Business**

1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria presented the concept note on adequate representation of Member States at the D-8 Secretariat which will be circulated accordingly.

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 concept note is attached as **Annex XI**.

2. Iran offered to send a director-level staff on secondment basis for assisting the adhoc Working Group on Covid-19.

#### **Agenda Item 20: Date and Venue of the Next D-8 Commission Meeting**

Bangladesh will host the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission from 16-17 May 2022 in Dhaka.

#### **Agenda Item 21: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**

The Commission considered and adopted the Report of its 44<sup>th</sup> Session.

#### **Agenda Item 22: Closing of the Meeting**

The Chairperson commended the esteemed participants for their valuable contributions and fruitful discussions and 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 Delegation also appreciated the People's Republic of Bangladesh for graciously hosting the meeting and providing excellent hospitality. 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 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

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