

Statement by
His Excellency Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin
Egypt's Commissioner to the D-8 Organization
20th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers
(Dhaka, July 27, 2022)

Your Excellency AK Abdul Momen, the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Your Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Honorable D-8 Secretary General,

Distinguished Ministers,

Excellencies, Ambassadors,

It is a real pleasure to be here in Dhaka to attend the 20th Meeting of the D-8 Council of Ministers. I would like to thank the esteemed government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the excellent organization of the Ministerial and Commission meetings, and for their kind hospitality. I would also like to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. I would also like to convey his appreciation to the current Chair of the D-8, the

People's Republic of Bangladesh, for its successful presidency of the organization. I am convinced that this meeting, which coincides with our celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of our organization, will not only contribute to cementing our common goals and aspirations, but will also allow us to exchange experiences and best practices in order to advance our development objectives.

Since its membership in the D-8 Organization, Egypt has been keen on capitalizing on the common grounds that exist between the D-8 Member States for the sake of achieving deeper economic cooperation. Based on our unshakable commitment to create better socio-economic conditions for our societies, Egypt is fully aware that strengthening the economic relations between developing countries will both contribute to this end as well as enhance our voice in the changing international system that we are facing.

With this understanding, Egypt has been working on deepening its relations with developing countries and transforming the role of organizations and forums that represent their interests. The D-8 is undeniably one of the most important organizations that represent the aspirations of developing countries. In this regard, Egypt has been working on expanding its trade volume with countries in the Global South, particularly with the Members of the D-8.

We need to work together to find ways, not only to increase intra-D-8 trade, but also to cooperate in the areas that have become increasingly indispensable for the transformation of our economies, such as sustainable development, the green and blue economy, clean energy, digital transformation, and investment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our journey towards achieving the full potential of cooperation between D-8 member states is filled with challenges as well as opportunities. During the past few years, we have faced unprecedented challenges that have put the resilience and performance of our economies to the test. The COVID-19 crisis and its socio-economic impacts, as well as the negative effect of the war in Europe on food security and the disruption of international supply chains, have precipitated higher levels of inflation and slowed down the pace of economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an undeniable fact that none of us can meet these challenges by ourselves. We need to work together to overcome the existing and unexpected socio-economic challenges, based on the principles of collegiality, responsible ownership, and stronger economic cooperation. By working together, we can build stronger levels of economic resilience

in the face of economic shocks and achieve sustainable economic and social development for our nations. I hope this meeting will enable us to identify common goals and reach an understanding on the main issues before us.

As we are discussing expanding the membership of the D-8, we have agreed to speedily reach consensus on a set of specific criteria and modalities that will allow for a fair, transparent, and objective process of accession to the membership of the D-8 for all countries willing to join.

We also hope that we can continue our efforts to expand and broaden cooperation in the areas of youth, agriculture, trade and investment, and health among others. We also truly support the vision that Her Excellency Sheikh Hassina, the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh so eloquently presented this morning.

Honorable Ministers,

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to express Egypt's commitment to continue working on enhancing the cooperation with the Members of the D-8, with the aim of achieving our common objectives as stated in the D-8 Charter. We believe that the D-8 has a role to play in the changing international system.

Thank you for your attention.

