

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.