

## **Draft Report**

### **Second Working Group Meeting on Granting Observer Status and Permitting Accession of New Members into the Organization (Virtual) 07 December, 2022 Istanbul, Turkey**

The Second Meeting of the Working Group on **Granting Observer Status and Permitting the Accession of New Members into the Organization** virtually held on 07 December, 2022. The meeting was chaired by People's Republic of Bangladesh. It was attended by Delegates from all Member States. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

#### **Agenda Item 1: - Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the Chair**

Director of International Organizations Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr. MD. Shakil Sahrior, delivered his opening statement and welcomed the delegates to the Working Group meeting. His statement is attached as **Annex II**.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

The Working Group 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 of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered his statement by welcoming the delegates to the meeting. His statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Discussion on creating new partnerships and permitting the accession of new members into the Organization.**

The Secretariat presented the updated 'Concept Note' along with the 'Working Paper', incorporating views and comments received from the member states, for discussion and decision-making by the Working Group.

The delegation of Bangladesh expressed the views that approval of membership

should be preceded by granting of observer status for at least two-year time period. And the candidate for membership should agree with the core objectives of the Organization.

Egypt stated that the existing criteria in the charter is too vague, and needs to be reviewed before accepting new members or observers.

Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia stated that new criteria and modalities are to be applied to any application, as decided by the Commission. Hence, ongoing applications will also be discussed in accordance with the new criteria and modalities.

Nigeria stated that any candidate for membership or observer status should be operating transparent and free market economy.

Pakistan reiterated its position that the modalities and criteria for accession, as provided in Article-III of the D-8 Charter provide sufficient basis for inclusion of new members / observers to the D-8 Organization. Therefore, the existing application and any other applications submitted before the finalization of the modalities and criteria by the Commission may be considered in the light of the provisions of the existing D-8 Charter.

The Republic of Türkiye expressed its view that the membership application of the Republic of Azerbaijan should be assessed on a separate track and also proposed that the membership criteria and modalities to be determined by the Working Group should not be applicable to the already pending applications.

After initial statements and comments, the Working Group tasked the D-8 Secretariat to prepare a 'Zero Draft' on the basis of comments and views received from the Member States, which will be circulated by 15 December 2022. The Working Group also invited any interested member state to share its views and comments on criteria and modalities for expansion with the Secretariat by 9 December 2022.

The Working Group will meet on 7-8 February 2023 to discuss the 'Zero Draft'. The Secretariat will coordinate the Working Group's virtual meeting on the agreed dates (i.e. 7-8 February 2023)

### **Agenda Item 5 - Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Working Group**

The Chair tasked the D-8 Secretariat to draft the Report of the Second Session of the Working Group, which would be subsequently adopted through circulation.

### **Agenda Item 6- Closing of the Meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and active participation.

The Secretary-General also expressed gratitude to the Chair and the delegates for the meeting's outcome.

The Second Working Group Meeting ended on 07 November, 2022.