

**Report of the
Technical Meeting on the D-8 PTA Implementation
virtually hosted by the D-8 Secretariat
05 December 2022**

Introduction

1. The D-8 Secretariat virtually hosted the Technical Meeting on the Preparation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) Implementation on 05 December 2022 at 11.00 AM, Istanbul time. Distinguished Delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye attended the Meeting. The List of Participants appears in **Annex I**.

Agenda Item - 1: Welcoming Remarks

2. The D-8 Secretary-General (SG), H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered opening remarks where he extended his deep appreciation to the esteemed Delegations and the Governments of the D-8 Member States. He paid a particular tribute to the concerned Ministries/Authorities from the Member States for their tremendous contribution throughout the formulation and implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement. The SG also underscored the importance of operationalizing the D-8 PTA to achieve the lofty goal of increased intra-trade envisioned by the D-8 leaders in the decennial roadmap 2020-2030. The SG's remark appears as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item - 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

3. The Meeting considered the Draft Agenda and sought comments from the participants. Before the Agenda's adoption, the SG proposed the inclusion of the topic 'Request for input/comments from the Member States for the concept note to be prepared by the Secretariat on the technical assistance from the WTO and the WCO' under Agenda Item 5 (Any Other Business). The Meeting agreed to include the proposed item and unanimously adopted the draft as its Agenda, which appears as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item - 3: Review of the current status of implementation of the PTA

Status update on the D-8 PTA Implementation by Member States

4. Under this Agenda Item, the D-8 Secretariat presented the PTA Implementation Matrix of the D-8 Member States (**attached as Annex IV**) and invited the esteemed Delegations from the Member States to update the Meeting about their respective status of implementation of the PTA. Furthermore, the D-8 Secretariat, highlighting that the Matrix

is a live document, invited all Member States to provide inputs and revisions as appropriate after the conclusion of the Meeting.

5. The esteemed Delegation of **Bangladesh** informed the Meeting that Bangladesh had submitted the specimen of Certificate of Origin (CoO) to the Secretariat. They will re-submit the printed specimen of CoO on green guilloche background as soon as they receive it for their Export Promotion Bureau. Bangladesh will also convey the contact information of designated focal points from relevant authorities in due course.
6. The esteemed Delegation of **Indonesia** updated the Meeting that Indonesia's implementation status is reflected correctly in the Matrix. They also apprised the Meeting that Indonesia has started the full implementation of the D-8 PTA beginning on 31 October 2022. However, they stated that they have yet to receive the contact points from all implementing Member States and requested Secretariat's assistance, in that regard.
7. The esteemed Delegation of **Iran** informed the Meeting that they had provided necessary notifications for implementing the PTA since, July 2016. Currently, they are working on the specimen Certificates of Origin, and they will submit the specimen CoO to the Secretariat as soon as its ready. They will also convey the updated customs stamps and specimen signs of authorizing CoO to the Secretariat, in due course.
8. The Esteemed Delegation of **Malaysia** also apprised the Meeting that they have submitted the approved form of the Specimen of CoO in soft-copy format. They will submit the specimen printed on green guilloche paper as soon as it is ready.
9. The esteemed Delegation of **Pakistan** reassured the Meeting that they are about to complete the necessary internal procedures to publish gazette notifications to implement the D-8 PTA. They will submit the notification along with the specimens of CoO, customs stamps, and signatures to the Secretariat, accordingly.
10. The esteemed Delegation of **Türkiye** reaffirmed the Meeting that the Republic of Türkiye is fully implementing the D-8 PTA. They also apprised the Meeting that Türkiye has submitted the designated focal points to the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat requested them to resend the contact information as the previous one was not recorded accordingly.
11. The D-8 Secretariat, in response to requests by the Member States, informed the Meeting that it had uploaded all documents relevant to the D-8 PTA to its server, which the Member States can access. Furthermore, the Secretariat had notified the link and credentials required to access the documents to all Member States through a note verbale. However, the Secretariat invited all Member States who experienced difficulties in accessing the documents to inform it accordingly so that the Secretariat could find a solution to obtaining the documents easily without compromising the integrity and security of the documents.

Method of the application of the Certificate of Origin:

12. The Meeting invited the Delegations to present their experiences, best practices, and various technical aspects of the application of the Certificate of Origin, particularly on whether they apply electronic or manual submission, require a digital or manual signature, apply a digital verification system or manual verification method, and use guilloche paper or QR codes to verify the authenticity.
13. The Delegations apprised the Meeting about their respective domestic procedures and established methods for applying CoO for export under the D-8 PTA. As the procedure differs from country to country, the Meeting decided that the Member States are free to use their established submission or verification methods of applying CoO in accordance with their domestic practices, on condition that the concerned authorities shall provide prior notification to their counterparts of other implementing States about their established practices.

Proposed adoption of the HS2022

14. Under this item, the esteemed Delegation of Malaysia informed the Meeting that the proposed adoption of the Harmonized System of 2022 (HS2022) would add some additional lines to the tariff reduction schedule. They mentioned that after the transposition process from the old HS Code to the HS 2022, they now have 387 tariff lines from the original 250 tariff lines. Bangladesh also informed the Meeting of a similar situation, whereby they now have 356 tariff lines from the original 350 lines from the previous HS Code. Indonesia apprised the Meeting that their offer list has used the lines of the HS2022.
15. The Meeting discussed points of clarification raised by the esteemed Delegations from Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Indonesia on the procedures and modalities of the annual installment of concessional rate for those additional lines in the offer list. The esteemed Delegation of Türkiye apprised the Meeting that his country has ratified the Offer List of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. They also suggested that the new offer list as the result of transposition must be published through a state gazette.
16. The Meeting agreed, in principle, on the necessity of discussion by the Contracting Member on this issue.

Agenda Item -4: Next course of action for operationalization of the D-8 PTA

17. The Meeting invited the Member States to define the next course of action to maintain the cut-off date of 31 October 2022. However, the esteemed Delegation of Malaysia apprised the Meeting that, per the modus operandi of the PTA, the Supervisory Committee must endorse the date of operationalization of the D-8 PTA proposed by the 3rd Customs Official Meeting virtually held on 24 May 2022. Therefore, they requested the Secretariat to take the approval of the Supervisory Committee via diplomatic correspondence.

18. The D-8 Secretariat, while noting the enthusiasm and optimism of the Member States to implement the D-8 PTA as scheduled, acknowledged the necessity of taking approval from the Supervisory Committee and asked the esteemed Delegation of Bangladesh to update the Meeting about the possible timeline of organizing the 7th Supervisory Committee and the 3rd Trade Ministers Council (TMC). The esteemed Delegation of Bangladesh apprised the Meeting that Bangladesh is taking preparation to hold the Supervisory Committee Meeting as well as TMC in the first quarter of 2023.
19. The D-8 Secretariat also called on Member States to conduct campaigns to raise the awareness of their respective citizens on the presence and benefit of the D-8 PTA. For its part, the Secretariat reiterated its commitment to continuously engage with the private sector to sensitize them to the vast potential offered by the D-8 PTA.

Agenda Item -5: Any other business

20. Under this Agenda Item, the SG underscored the importance of a capacity-building program of relevant customs officials from Member States who are directly linked with implementing the D-8 PTA. On this note, he highlighted that the Secretariat is collaborating with the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to explore the organization of tailor-made training programmes that would enhance the capacity of the relevant Customs Officials of the Member States. In line with this, he also reiterated the request to the Member States to submit necessary inputs delineating specific areas relating to the PTA, where the WTO, WCO, and UNCTAD could provide necessary technical assistance to enhance the capacity of relevant officials.
21. The esteemed Delegation of Indonesia highlighted that tailor-made capacity-building training on the following issues would be highly appreciated:
 - a. Advanced Rules of Origin.
 - b. Transposition of offer list into new HS2022 (modalities and procedures).
 - c. Method of applying CoO in case of importation by installment.
22. The Secretariat highly appreciated the inputs from the esteemed Delegation of Indonesia and requested them to send the input above in writing to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience. The Secretariat will prepare concept notes for capacity building and submit them to the Member States, for consideration.

Agenda Item -6: Adoption of the Meeting Report

23. The Meeting decided that the Secretariat is to prepare the draft of the meeting report and circulate it for comments and feedback from the Member States, at the earliest

convenience. Upon receiving the comments/feedback from the member states, the Secretariat will circulate the final report with all necessary annexures.

Agenda Item -7: Closing Remarks

24. In his Closing Remarks, the SG reiterated his deep appreciation to the esteemed Delegations from the Member States for their engaging discussion and constructive outcome of the deliberations. The SG also assured the Meeting that the Secretariat would maintain close consultation with the Member States to expedite the full operationalization of the PTA.
25. The D-8 Secretary-General adjourned the Technical Meeting.
