

**BILATERAL MEETINGS OF THE D-8 SECRETARY GENERAL
AT THE SIDELINE OF THE FIRST D-8 FORUM ON SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES AND HEALTH MARKET
ABUJA, NIGERIA, 26 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2022**

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, paid courtesy calls and held bilateral meetings with Senior Officials of the Government and other relevant entities in Nigeria at the sidelines of the First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market (D-8 SME Forum) in Abuja, Nigeria, from 26 October – 2 November 2022. During the Meeting, the D-8 Secretary-General is accompanied by Director II of the D-8 Secretariat, Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha.
2. Among the outcomes of the Meeting include:
 - a. The readiness of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the D-8 Center for SME in Abuja, Nigeria.
 - b. The D-8 Organization, with the cooperation of the Government of Nigeria, NACCIMA, and NBET, to organize a private-sector-promoted D-8 Forum on Energy in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2023.
 - c. The D-8 Forum on SMEs are to be made an annual event on a rotating basis among the D-8 Member States. It was agreed that this proposal should be tabled at the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission, for endorsement.
 - d. Cooperation on capacity building for SMEs, which include training for trainers, study and comparative tour, the establishment of a network of the contact point, and involvement of third parties.

II. THE MEETINGS

A. Courtesy Call to the Vice President of Nigeria

3. The D-8 Secretary-General paid a courtesy call to the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Prof. Oluyemi Oluleke Osinbajo, GCON, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on 1 November 2022.
4. The D-8 Secretary General sensitized the Vice President on the preparation to implement the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) before the end of this year. He further highlighted that seven of eight Member States had fully completed their respective domestic procedures to implement the PTA. He is confident that all Members will complete

the procedures soon. He added that the relevant protocols to the PTA, namely the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and the Trade Facilitation Strategy, have been concluded.

5. The D-8 Secretary-General expressed confidence that the PTA, coupled with the combined population and economic performances of the D-8 Member States, the target to increase intra-trade to US\$ 500 billion in 2030 is achievable.
6. The D-8 Secretary-General also presented his twin visions: increasing intra-trade and increasing the visibility of the Organization globally. He intends to boost the Organization's visibility globally so that the D-8 can benefit all stakeholders. The D-8 Secretary-General strives to conduct programs and projects in collaboration with other international entities and development partners.
7. The D-8 Secretary-General also presented the outcome of the First D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Market, jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program, on 26-27 October 2022. One of the outcomes is the readiness of Nigeria to host the D-8 Center for SMEs in Abuja, Nigeria.
8. The D-8 Secretary-General presented further the idea of bolstering collaboration in the energy sector as another priority of the Organization. He sought support from the Vice President for the proposed private-sector-led D-8 Forum on Energy to be held in Lagos, Nigeria, in the first quarter of 2023. The Forum will synergize the comparative advantages of the Member States in the energy sector to enhance the energy security of the D-8 Organization.
9. On his part, the Vice President underlined the importance of closer ties among developing countries such as those in the D-8. Vice President Osinbajo emphasized that it is highly timely for the D-8 Member Countries to really focus on the critical issues, particularly trade and energy. He noted that the current global challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical instability have destroyed the global economy and plunged the world into recession. Therefore, the D-8 Organization must serve as a platform for developing countries on economic recovery and facilitate Member States to break the barrier to become emerging economies.
10. On trade, the Vice President of Nigeria stressed further that there is a need for greater trade engagements. He stated that Nigeria offers an excellent prospect for expanding trade among the D-8 members. He noted that supported by its robust banking industry, Nigeria can serve as a point of departure for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) and an entrance into it for the D-8 Member States. He urged Member States to provide trade facilitation and eliminate the burden and challenges faced by businesses.
11. The Vice President expected the D-8 to move forward with the payment system development to support its trade cooperation. He suggested the D-8 engage with the Nigerian banks to see how they can function within the AfCTA, the D-8 Organization, and all their partners.

12. On energy, the Vice President of Nigeria underlined Nigeria's advocacy for a just transition to net zero. He urged the D-8 to join in the campaign, noting that there is a debate about the role of gas in the transition to net zero. He stressed that developing countries, such as the D-8 Member States, will still rely on gas for their respective economic development in the foreseeable future. The Vice President noted that Member States are faced with similar energy challenges; therefore, it is possible for the D-8 to strengthen advocacy in the area of energy access, which is an integral part of the whole campaign towards net zero. He underlined that he is advocating more investments in fossil fuels, especially gas for developing countries, which can also be taken up by the D-8.
13. On health, the Vice President also commended the D-8 on the work in health and social protection, especially in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the platform provided an excellent opportunity for countries to look at the common problems, including getting and producing vaccines. He noted that the Member States could manufacture medicines locally and stressed that Nigeria has the capacity for the genome sequencing of the Corona and Ebola viruses.
14. The Vice President expected the proposed D-8 Center on SMEs to be operationalized soon. The D-8 Secretary-General assured the Vice President that the Center will be a game changer in SME cooperation among the D-8 Member States by facilitating, among others, capacity building, quality assurances of products, and promoting the market expansion of SMEs.
15. The D-8 Secretary-General took the opportunity to convey appreciation to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Vice President, for the support accorded by Nigeria on activities of the D-8 Organization and also for his appointment as the Secretary-General.

B. Courtesy Call to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria

16. The D-8 Secretary-General paid a Courtesy Call to the Honorable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abuja on 28 October 2022.
17. During the Call, the D-8 Secretary-General expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Honorable Minister for organizing the First D-8 SME Forum and Health Market. He also congratulated the Honorable Minister for the excellent arrangement for the Forum and for the hospitality extended to the delegations.
18. The D-8 Secretary-General highlighted further that the Forum had achieved its intended objectives: to strengthen cooperation between the D-8 Member States on SMEs and the health sector and serve as a platform to broaden collaboration with other entities. He highlighted that the response from participants to the Forum is generally positive, with several takeaways. He also underlined that the Forum was an eye-opening event, which has helped to strengthen the visibility of the D-8 Organization, not only within the Member States but also to broader audiences.

19. The D-8 Secretary-General also thanked the Honorable Minister for the readiness of Nigeria to host the D-8 Center for SMEs in Abuja. He sought further support from the Honorable Minister for the operationalization of the Center, when it is eventually established.
20. The D-8 Secretary-General apprised the Honorable Minister of State that the next priority would be to convene a similar forum on Energy in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2023. He will provide the Honorable Minister with further updates and the concept note, in due course.
21. On his part, the Honorable Minister of State underlined that the Forum has served as a showcase for the D-8 Organization and its potential. The Forum is also an excellent step to eliminate the perception bias toward the D-8 Organization as a religion-based organization. Such a bias prevents all relevant stakeholders from reaping the benefit of the Organization. He underlined the readiness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria to support the effort in eliminating such a bias and by upholding the primary intention of the D-8 Organization as an organization to promote economic cooperation among its Member States.
22. He also congratulated and thanked the D-8 Secretary-General for facilitating the Forum through close collaboration with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN).

Follow-up actions

- a. Creating concept notes to establish the D-8 SME Forum as an annual event.
- b. Enhance PR activities to increase the D-8 Organization further as an organization focused on economic cooperation in the identified priority areas.

C. Meeting with the Director-General of SMEDAN

23. The D-8 Secretary-General had a bilateral meeting with the Director-General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Mr. Olawale Tunde Fasanya, accompanied by relevant Directors from SMEDAN at their office in Abuja on 28 October 2022. The Director for International Cooperation of KOSGEB, Türkiye, Mr. Murat Soykan, also attended the Meeting.
24. In his introductory remarks, the D-8 Secretary-General briefed the Meeting on the current development of the D-8 Organization. He also congratulated and thanked SMEDAN for organizing the First D-8 SME Forum, which has achieved its intended objective of promoting cooperation among SMEs in the D-8 Organization. The D-8 Secretary-General particularly appreciated the SMEDAN for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him to attend the First D-8 Forum.
25. On his part, the DG SMEDAN introduced the structure and objectives of SMEDAN, stating that Agriculture and Engineering are currently the major priorities of SMEDAN. The DG SMEDAN also raised the purpose of SMEDAN to build the capacity of SMEs through various programs financed by the Government and other donor entities. Since its inception,

the SMEDAN has injected more than 50 million Nigerian Naira (US\$ 140.000), in grants, for training, funding, and program, with cooperation with the private banks in Nigeria. The SMEDAN also created a special financing scheme with a very low-interest rate, designed specifically for MSMEs.

26. The DG SMEDAN also highlighted that they created clusters, with the value chain approach, to enhance market access by the SMEs. Capacity-building programs are clustered into three main categories: enhancing business organization, provision of floating microfinance, and license issuance. The program aims to improve the capacity and knowledge of SMEs to run their business profitably.
27. SMEDAN and KOSGEB will explore further cooperation, including developing an MoU, which will be followed up with establishing a plan of action, organizing joint expos in Nigeria and Türkiye, and building capacity in accessing raw materials. The two organizations also discussed the possibility of a study tour by SMEDAN to Türkiye. SMEDAN will send a formal letter to KOSGEB listing areas of cooperation to be pursued by the two organizations.
28. The D-8 Secretary-General welcomed the readiness of SMEDAN to host the proposed D-8 Center for SMEs. The Center would further promote and strengthen cooperation in developing SMEs in the D-8 Member States. He also expressed the readiness of the D-8 Secretariat to assist and facilitate SMEDAN in preparing the operationalization of the Center. The SMEDAN requested funding facilitation from the D-8 Secretariat to support the operationalization of the Center.
29. The D-8 Secretary-General also tabled the idea of collaborating with other donor entities and development partners, such as the Islamic Development Bank to facilitate projects, including developing SME clinics and training. He also expressed the readiness of the D-8 Secretariat to facilitate the interaction between SMEDAN and other entities from the D-8 Member States.

Follow-up actions

- a. Liaise with KOSGEB and SMEDAN to facilitate correspondence, including the proposed MoU between SMEDAN and KOSGEB.
- b. Draw up an action plan and concept note for establishing the D-8 Center in SMEs.
- c. Revitalize SMEs' contact points of the D-8 Member States to facilitate coordination.

D. Meeting with the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN)

30. The D-8 Secretary-General held a bilateral meeting with the Director-General of the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN), Mr. Ahmed Bolaji Nagode, at the NAPTIN's office in Abuja, on 28 October 2022. The Director for International Relations of KOSGEB, Mr. Murat Soykan, was also in attendance.

31. In his introductory remarks, the D-8 Secretary-General highlighted the current development of the D-8 Organization, particularly in the priority areas listed in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap. He stated that energy is one of the priority areas of cooperation in D-8 and pitched an idea to conduct cooperation on capacity building in energy generation, with the involvement of all D-8 Member States, stressing that some of D-8 Member States have competitive advantages in the area of energy production. He underlined that the D-8 Secretariat is considering organizing a private-sector-promoted D-8 Energy Forum in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2023 to synergize the competitive advantages of the Member States in the energy sector to enhance their energy security.
32. On his part, the DG NAPTIN introduced the structure of his Institute and its objective to build the capacity of human resources in energy production in Nigeria. He also highlighted that NAPTIN is a member of the West African Power Pool, which was established with the objective of creating a reliable power grid for the region and a common market for electricity. Regarding international cooperation, the DG NAPTIN introduced that they have collaborated with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) of Germany on capacity building on solar and wind-based power generation. NAPTIN has also collaborated with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on technical and logistical aspects of energy production. On the other hand, the *Agence Francaise du Developpement* (Afd) has also provided a grant and soft loan amounting to 46 million Euros for the modernization of NAPTIN's training centers, production of renewable energy and its infrastructure, and capacity-building through training. NAPTIN is currently discussing with USAID to establish a training hub on power for the government.
33. The DG NAPTIN highlighted that the current curricula of his organization are to build change management and corporate culture and governance in the energy sector, the culture of environmental protection and sustainability, and digital transformation. He identified areas that can still be enhanced, including capacity building on renewable energy and establishing a mini-grid to improve power generation in Nigeria. For such a purpose, NAPTIN is also developing relevant faculty involving trainers from Nigeria and international entities. The ultimate objective of NAPTIN is to build the right set of skills in energy production.
34. The D-8 Secretary-General welcomed the NAPTIN's many achievements and expressed readiness to further collaborate with NAPTIN to enhance the energy production capacity in Nigeria. He further proposed that NAPTIN could play a role in the forthcoming D-8 Forum on Energy.

Follow-up Actions

- a. Conduct a study to replicate the cooperation model with donor entities.
- b. Engage further with NAPTIN to formulate a concept paper for the D-8 Forum on Energy.

E. Meeting with the SME Forum Nigeria

35. The D-8 Secretary-General held a bilateral meeting with officials of the SME Forum of Nigeria on 27 October 2022. The SME Forum is a non-governmental organization comprising SMEs in Nigeria to harness their potential through capacity building, advocacy, and facilitation.
36. In his introductory remarks, the D-8 Secretary-General highlighted one of the purposes of the D-8 Forum on SME: to increase the organization's visibility in the Member States and the greater audiences. He underlined that there is much potential for SMEs in the D-8 Organizations, mainly since the population of the D-8 is a vast market with significant economic performance. He further highlighted that SMEs could also exploit the market for a creative economy, which is thriving in the D-8 Organization. He underscored the need to increase and maintain the quality of products to ensure market access.
37. On their part, the SME Forum of Nigeria responded by expressing their readiness to support the promotion of the D-8 Organization to be more well-known by the public in Nigeria. They highlighted that the Forum, which was established on 6 October 2022 had established a blueprint for the development of SMEs in Nigeria, including measures on how to provide finances for SMEs with support from the Central Bank of Nigeria. This blueprint will contribute to implementing the Five-year MSME Development Plan in Nigeria.
38. The SME Forum of Nigeria also highlighted that one of their focuses is creating a sustainable activity through stakeholder engagement. For this purpose, they will also establish an organizational structure and a web-based portal, which will include interactive and dynamic data, and profiles of all individual SMEs and will be equipped with a marketing component and online capacity-building material that all members can use. The portal can be linked to the D-8's platform to broaden their outreach.
39. The establishment of an MSME Bank with 160 billion Nigerian Naira (US\$ 364,1 million) is currently being drafted. This will ensure access to funding for all SMEs in Nigeria. The bank is expected to work with the D-8 Center for SMEs, which Nigeria will host in Abuja.
40. The D-8 Secretary-General also underlined the importance of collaborating with other international entities and development partners, particularly for capacity-building programs and projects.
41. The two sides agreed to cooperate to support each other's program in developing SMEs, particularly to enhance market access, build capacity, facilitate access to funding, and create joint projects on SMEs.

Follow up actions

- a. Engage with the SME Forum of Nigeria to identify areas of cooperation on capacity building for SMEs.
- b. Prepare the SME Forum of Nigeria to contribute to the establishment of the D-8 Center on SMEs.

- c. Explore the possibility of linking the web portal of the SME Forum of Nigeria with the D-8 website.

F. Meeting with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA)

- 42. The D-8 Secretary-General had a bilateral meeting with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA), which was represented by the 2nd Deputy President of NACCIMA, Mr. Jani Ibrahim FNSE, FAEng, OOM, mni, in Abuja on 27 October 2022.
- 43. The two leaders discussed the role of the private sector as the main driver of the economic activity of the D-8 Organization. There is a need to increase the leverage of the private sector to enable them to contribute more extensively to the organization. The D-8 Secretariat must work closely to engage the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry to drive the economic activities, projects, and programs, within the D-8 Organization. After all, the private sector would be the ‘torch bearer’ for the long term that can ensure the sustainability of various economic activities.
- 44. The D-8 Organization has a vast potential to be the economic powerhouse, particularly considering its individual members' economic performance, the complementarity nature of their products, and the breadth of SMEs in various sectors. The D-8 Organization must punch above its weight to gain the utmost benefit of its potential.
- 45. On the proposed establishment of a D-8 Center for SMEs, to be hosted by the Government of Nigeria in Abuja, the two leaders agreed that it should enable the broader role of the private sector. The D-8 Organization must secure long-term funding for the Center, which may be sourced from the Nigerian Government with support from other development partners.
- 46. The two leaders also agreed that energy is another priority sector that must be pursued. There is still a huge gap in energy production within the D-8 Organization. The D-8 Organization must address such a gap to improve energy sufficiency.
- 47. For this purpose, the two leaders agreed to collaborate to organize a D-8 Forum on Energy in Abuja or Lagos in the first quarter of 2023. The D-8 Secretariat will develop a concept note for the Energy Forum. The Forum would serve as another avenue to increase the visibility of the D-8 Organization and, simultaneously, deliberate project feasibility on energy development in the D-8 Member States.
- 48. On the proposal to establish a D-8 refinery, the NACCIMA tabled a proposal to acquire an already existing refinery in Europe, with a capacity of 300.000 barrels per day, which is now put into the market for acquisition. The D-8 Secretariat will study the proposal before presenting it to the member states, for consideration.
- 49. On sustainability, while acknowledging the importance of addressing the threats of climate change, the two leaders foresee that most of the D-8 Member States would rely on fossil

fuels until the foreseeable future. Renewable energy development is slower than scheduled in most D-8 Member States.

Follow-up actions

- a. Formulate concept note for the convening of the private-sector-led D-8 Forum on Energy.
- b. Strengthen coordination with and among the D-8 CCI to promote business activities among the D-8 Member States.
- c. Keep in view the suggestion to acquire an already existing refinery in Europe.

G. Meeting with the Managing Director of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading

50. The D-8 Secretary-General had a meeting with the Managing Director of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET), Dr. Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, in Abuja, Nigeria on 2 November 2022.
51. During the Meeting, the D-8 Secretary-General laid out the vision of the D-8 Organization, underlining cooperation in the energy sector as one of its priority areas. He stated that the D-8 Organization also embarked on the discussion to increase the production of energy using new and renewable energy sources. He informed the NBET of the plan to organize a private-sector-promoted D-8 Forum on Energy in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2023. He invited NBET to be one of the major contributors to the proposed Forum.
52. On his part, the MD of NBET welcome the plan to organize the private-sector-led D-8 Forum on Energy and expressed his commitment that NBET would be a part of it. He noted that participation of other entities in Nigeria, such as NACCIMA, SMEDAN, and MAN would be beneficial. He stated that energy is one of the biggest challenges to further propel the industry in Nigeria, particularly the gap between the government's existing grid with small independent electric producers, the cost of diesel for generators that skyrocketed, scarcity of fuel, and environmental impact of the outdated generators.
53. The MD of NBET stated his idea to create a comprehensive map of SMEs in Nigeria to identify their energy needs, so that surplus in a particular area could be redirected to other areas that need more energy supply. He expressed his confidence that with the harmonized data, involving a robust mapping, production aggregate, and transmission, energy needs for the industry can be addressed. He added that, according to the identification of the NBET, the national demand for energy reaches 19 gigawatts, while the supply was only 13 gigawatts at best. According to NBET's calculation, to meet the national demands, Nigeria requires 40 billion Naira (US\$ 92 million) investment. He highlighted that Nigeria is equipped with sufficient regulation on energy production, however, their implementation is still lagging.
54. In his response, the D-8 Secretary-General stated that the proposed D-8 Energy Forum would focus on, among others, harnessing investment from private sectors. Moreover, with

the eventual establishment of the D-8 Center for SMEs in Abuja, the improvement in the energy sector becomes even more crucial.

Follow-up action

- a. Send a formal letter to NBET to invite them to contribute significantly to the proposed private-sector-promoted D-8 Forum on Energy.

III. CLOSING

55. The Meeting resulted in several outcomes and served the intended purpose of broadening the visibility of the D-8 Organization to relevant entities in Nigeria.

**THE FIRST D-8 FORUM ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
AND HEALTH MARKET
ABUJA, NIGERIA, 26-27 OCTOBER 2022
REPORT**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretary-General of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, accompanied by Director II of the D-8 Secretariat, attended the First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market, which was organized in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26-27 October 2022. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme (D-8 HSP) jointly organized and hosted the Forum.
2. The Forum was attended by small and medium enterprises, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the D-8 Member States in Nigeria, as well as representatives of the Government of the D-8 Member States, partner organizations such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).
3. The Forum had an exhibition by 12 SMEs from Nigeria who showcased their products through the exhibition organized for the duration of the Forum. Two financial institutions from Nigeria, that provided financial services for SMEs, also presented their products in the exhibition.
4. The D-8 Secretariat noted the Forum's key takeaways, which mainly centered on the following themes:
 - a. SMEs play a crucial role in economic development and attainment of SDGs by the D-8 Member States. However, challenges still abound faced by SMEs, such as limited access to appropriate funding, lack of capacity for managerial skills, lack of access to raw materials, gender inequality, and limited resources. The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges faced by SMEs.
 - b. The need to enhance SMEs' capacity and resilience to prepare them to face another unforeseen disruption.
 - c. The need to develop policy and strategy to support the capacity-building of SMEs: access to finance, access to capital, technology acquirement,
5. Recommendations and ways forward emanated from the Forum include:
 - a. The proposed establishment of a D-8 Center on SMEs in Abuja, Nigeria, to which the Government of Nigeria has expressed its readiness to host the center when operational, will assist in the development of SMEs in the D8.

- b. Drawing from the success of the current Forum, the proposal was tabled to make the D-8 Forum on SMEs an annual event on a rotating basis.
- c. Cooperation with other organizations, particularly the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Islamic Development Bank, must be expanded to support the D-8 efforts to create more strengthened and agile SMEs.
- d. The D-8 Organization has established the D-8 SMEs Task Force, which must be reinvigorated to ensure its effectiveness.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

- 6. The Honorable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, officially opened the Forum.
- 7. In his opening remarks, The Honorable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs highlighted that the Forum was proposed by Nigeria during the 45th Session of the D-8 Commissioners' Meeting and, subsequently, the 20th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July 2022. He stated that the proposal was driven by the need to enhance the capacity of SMEs to prepare them to face the multiple crises and challenges that tipped the balance in a distressed world. Among the challenges, he identified include inadequate management and business practices capacity, stiff competition from larger enterprises, limited access to raw materials, and inconsistencies in government policies. He underlined the need to deepen collaboration to promote the development of SMEs through the transfer of technology and cluster development. Therefore, he expected the Forum would mark a step forward to bolster the collective efforts taken by the D-8 Member States to promote SMEs. He invited the Forum to chart a way forward, which focuses on investment, inclusiveness, implementation, and creating impact for the SMEs. He also lauded the D-8 Secretariat for facilitating and promoting the event.
- 8. In his welcome remarks, the Director-General of the SMEDAN, Mr. Wale Fasanya, highlighted that the global economy is facing uncertainty posed by, among others, enraging conflicts, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine, and the Covid-19 pandemic, that requires a collective effort to address it. In addition, he underlined that SMEs also face other challenges, such as the cost of production, reduced access to competitive markets, and capital. He also highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic provides a backdrop for the emphasis on the health sector that is highly relevant to the current Forum. He stressed that SMEs play a major role in such an economic integration effort as well as in the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He stated that SMEs must be equipped to contribute to sustainable economic growth. He noted that the D-8 Organization was established to focus cooperation on economic integration. And noting SMEs' significant role, he mulled the idea of establishing a D-8 center for SMEs to provide a platform for better synergy among the D-8 Member States in developing SMEs. Such an

idea could also be coupled with training for trainers to enhance the technological prowess of SMEs.

9. The Global Director of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme (D-8 HSP), Dr. Ado Muhammed, in his welcome remarks, underlined that the role of the D-8 HSP is to contribute to the materialization of the D-8 Organization's priority sectors, particularly on health. He emphasized that the D-8 HSP aims at creating resilience and bridging gaps in poverty alleviation, hunger eradication, and health promotion. He highlighted three main programs of the D-8 HSP, namely i) financing strategy for health system safety net, ii) enhancing equitable access to health, and iii) data-driven health development. He also underlined the vast potential of SMEs to contribute to strengthening the health sector in the D-8 Member States. He projected that the SMEs could generate US\$ 120 billion in the health market, given the appropriate access.
10. The Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, Dr. Ezra Yakusak, underlined the importance of forming a coalition to reinvent SMEs' competitiveness. He also emphasized that SMEs play a crucial role in poverty reduction, addressing inequality, and improving economic development in general. He stated that health is still a significant issue in some parts of the world, including in the D-8 Member States, where SMEs could play a bridging role. For such a purpose, he underscored the importance of boosting the competitiveness of SMEs by creating a platform to support the SMEs' positive development.
11. In his remarks, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Abuja, H.E. Hidayet Bayraktar, presented some advancements in the SME sector in his country. He noted that intra-trade among the D-8 Member States does not reflect its true potential. He lauded the D-8 Organization for emphasizing trade, including advancing the role of SMEs. He also emphasized the need to exploit the unique strength of each D-8 Member State and highlighted the importance of synergy and collaboration between the Government and the private sectors to create a sound economic policy. He stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had caused a devastating impact on the global economy and noted that the pandemic serves as a wake-up call for all countries to prioritize building a robust health system. He added that the Government of Türkiye has invested significantly in the health sector, including developing and producing a Turkish Covid-19 vaccine dubbed the Turkovac. The Turkish Government also created an environment that enables the creation of high-quality health services in Türkiye, at a relatively competitive price.
12. The Sustainable Development Officer at the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Mr. Ke Liu, presented programs that the UNDESA organizes to promote SMEs' capacity to enhance their contribution to attaining the SDGs. He highlighted that to raise awareness on the role of SMEs in SDGs; the UN declared 'UN Global SME Day' every 27 June. He further highlighted challenges SMEs faced, including climate change, supply chain limitation, inflation, and reduced access to cash flow. He echoed the call of the UN Secretary-General to all UN Member States to strengthen their commitment to supporting

SMEs' growth. This is because SMEs can serve as the first responder in times of crisis if their resilience is well supported. The government may provide support by employing sustainable policy support, stimulus packages, and demand-driven policies. He further introduced two support programs provided by the UNDESA for the development of SMEs, namely i) "Strengthening national capacities for enhancing MSME resilience and building forward better to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (MSME project)", which is funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Fund, and ii) "Strengthened MSME Resilience in Africa and Asia", which is funded by the United Nations Development Account. To date, the two programs have contributed to the organization of 30 projects, benefiting more than 12,000 policymakers on SMEs. He invited the D-8 Organization to benefit from the program and expressed the readiness of UNDESA to develop a specific program for the D-8 Organization.

13. The High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Masudur Rahman, delivered remarks that centered upon the importance of the D-8 PTA to boost the intra-trade among the D-8 Member States. He also highlighted the role of SMEs as the foundation for economic development in his country, including their role in attaining SDGs in Bangladesh. He stated that SMEs are projected to contribute to the ambitious goal of economic growth of 7% in Bangladesh.
14. In a written statement, the Honorable Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Ambassador Maryam Katagum, highlighted that for more than two decades, the D-8 Organization had provided a foundation to promote trade and increase the GDP of the D-8 Member States. She expressed her confidence that the D-8 can be an economic powerhouse given that all Member States join their forces, including fully implementing the D-8 PTA. She further underlined the importance of targeted policy to stimulate SME growth by the D-8 Member States. This is because SMEs contributed significantly to economic development and around 40% of the global GDP and the attainment of SDGs. She identified areas in which the SMEs must be strengthened, which include adequate market information and access, management skill, entrepreneurship skill, access to funds, access to information technology, and the provision of transparent and sustainable policies. She also stated the readiness of Nigeria to establish and host the D-8 SMEs Center.
15. The Executive Coordinator of the Cooperation and Capacity Development Department, of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Ms. Ima Kashim, delivered remarks highlighting the ongoing cooperation between the IsDB and the D-8 Organization. The latest collaboration was on the joint study of therapeutic goods in three D-8 Member States: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Türkiye. The representative also underlined the readiness of IsDB to contribute financially to other joint programs with the D-8 Organization.
16. In his statement, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, stated that the Forum is the manifestation of the priorities on SMEs set forth by the D-8 Leaders, captured in the 'D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030'. He

underlined that the Forum is timely because i) it is in line with the global agenda, emanated in the annual “Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day,” ii) the need to promote SMEs’ resilience as the engine of economic recovery, and iii) SMEs are the backbone of the economy all D-8 Member States. He reiterated that the D-8 is on track to address the challenges SMEs face, mainly through Task Force on SMEs, which has produced several notable recommendations to further strengthen and create more agile SMEs. He expressed his confidence that strengthened SME, coupled with the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), will boost the D-8 intra-trade. He further underscored that cooperation is crucial to enhancing SMEs. He provided an example of collaboration between UNDESA and the D-8 Secretariat to organize a Capacity Building Workshop on e-government, in Istanbul, from 17-18 November 2022. He further underlined that the health sector had become the D-8’s priority since the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, where SMEs can contribute to the foundation of the D-8 health system. He also noted the development of the pharmaceutical industry in some of the D-8 Member States, which can produce their respective domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine.

III. PROCEEDINGS

A. Opening panel

17. The opening panel set the tone for the Forum and discussed ideas to establish a coalition to reinvent SME landscapes in the D-8 Organization. Representatives from the UNDESA, SME Forum on Nigeria, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), and Central Bank of Nigeria discussed the following topics:
 - a. Covid-19 pandemic has caused severe impacts on SMEs, which was exacerbated by geopolitical instability. The SMEs also face unique challenges by their geographical and regional affiliations. The panelists also identified other challenges that include the need for more coherent policies in some member states and several governmental agencies' overlapping authority on SMEs.
 - b. SMEs are crucial to boosting export. Therefore, governments must provide support and facilitation, including employing policies that enable SMEs to grow and providing access to equitable finance.
 - c. The D-8 has a vast potential to reap the benefit from the SMEs. Therefore, several recommendations and proposals that the D-8 SME Task Force has presented must be followed up. One of the priorities is the development of a D-8 SME bank. Another priority is establishing standardized SME certification within the D-8 Member States and strengthening SMEs’ market access capacity.
 - d. The private sector must also support governments’ efforts to develop the SME sector, mainly to provide advocacy and facilitation to enhance SMEs’ access to finance, resources, and education.

- e. The D-8 must collaborate with other organizations to develop SMEs. UNDESA provides two programs to support SMEs funded by the UN system, which the D-8 Organization may also utilize. The UNDESA's programs have been implemented in several developing countries. There is a strong potential for creating a specific program for the D-8 Organization by UNDESA, given the proper planning and strategy. One program is directed toward creating coherent government policies, focusing on a demand-driven approach.
- f. The panelists identified the need for a common policy on health care within the D-8 Organization. Some Member States have employed strategies to enhance their health system, which still needs to be synergized. The panelists noted that Nigeria has started developing health and pharmaceutical industries, which also involve SMEs.

B. Panel on Finance for SMEs and Health Market

- 18. This panel specifically discussed the 'triple A' objective of the Forum, namely accessibility, affordability, and availability of financial resources for SMEs. The panel also deliberated on measures to bridge the existing gaps by providing tax incentives and other innovative financing mechanisms to boost SMEs. Representatives from BoI, Jaiz Bank, and DBN delivered their respective presentations, which focused on the following:
 - a. SMEs still face challenges in accessing appropriate financing mechanisms suitable for them. Most of the credits that major banks provide are not designed for SMEs.
 - b. Some commercial banks have provided special arrangements and schemes for SMEs. Access to finance must be coupled with SMEs' adequate management skills.
 - c. Collaboration between public and private sectors can help alleviate the challenges faced by SMEs to access financing through advocacy and facilitation. Cooperative activities may provide alternatives to affordable finance for SMEs.

C. Panel Contribution of Women to the Growth of SMEs in the D-8 Member States

- 19. The discussion on this panel centered on addressing the challenges women entrepreneurs face. Representatives from National Center for Women Development of Nigeria, AWEP, and NAIME offered their views on the following topics:
 - a. The role of women in SMEs has been increasing significantly throughout the years. Around 35% of SMEs have full or partial ownership by women, particularly in developing countries. SMEs enhance women's access to opportunities and resources, including healthcare, education, technology, finance, and employment.
 - b. There is still a gap in gender balance in the development of SMEs, which is caused by a biased perspective against perceptible performance, the role of women in a household, a lack of information, and limited access to finance.

- c. D-8 Member Countries must establish a more robust strategy to enhance the capacity of women entrepreneurs, since this effort could also support the attainment of SDGs.
- d. Public and private partnerships are crucial to enhance women's economic development capacity, including improving innovation capability, advanced management skills, and branding.

D. Plenary Session on Health Market in the D-8 Organization

- 20. The Plenary Session discussed the findings of the D-8 HSP and IsDB study on the health markets in three D-8 Member States, namely, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Türkiye, particularly on therapeutic goods. The session discussed the vast opportunity in the health market, which still needs further exploration.
- 21. In his presentation, the representative of the D-8 HSP highlighted gaps that exist in the production and market of therapeutic goods in Indonesia, Nigeria, and Türkiye. He also presented the recommendations that can be priorities in those three countries for the next five years, which include:
 - a. Strengthen SMEs on health production and delivery through healthcare industrialization and drug legislation policies supported by the building and deepening strength in clinical trials.
 - b. Upscaling biopharmaceutical, vaccines, and supplies infrastructure and increasing local production capacity to meet national requirements of essential medicines.
 - c. Establishment of multilateral governance frameworks for health infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships.
 - d. Advancing the technological acquisitions to harness the potential of telemedicine and telehealth, using artificial intelligence and digital health innovation.
- 22. The Session further discussed potentials in the research and development and manufacturing capacity, supply chain infrastructure and capacity, access to capital, governance and institutional structure on health, national health system, and trade cooperation on the health market.

E. Breakout Sessions on SMEs and Health Market

- 23. The breakout sessions were participated by private sectors and are intended to gather inputs and suggestions from the business entities.
- 24. The breakout session on SMEs' main discussion was on SMEs' access to adequate finance. Another focus is on the need to enhance the capacity of SMEs on managerial skills, creating and conducting profitable businesses. The Government can play a significant role in the capacity-building of SMEs.
- 25. The breakout session on the health market highlighted the vast potential of the health sector to be operationalized by SMEs. There is consensus that SMEs play a crucial role in creating

a robust health system. SMEs must be adequately equipped to access the health market in the D-8 Member States. The Governments must provide adequate support for SMEs, including technology acquisition and financing.

F. Panel Discussion “Your Growth Opportunity with D-8 Market”

26. The D-8 Secretary-General, a representative of KOSGEB, and the Director of Industrial Development from FMITI acted as panelists in the panel discussion discussing the potential growth in the D-8 market.
27. The D-8 Secretary-General highlighted the strength of the D-8 Organization to develop SMEs further. Among the strengths he highlighted were the combined population that makes vast market potential, the unique strength of each respective D-8 Member State to make a complementary economy, and the commendable economic performance of most of the D-8 Member States. The D-8 Secretary-General also laid out his plan and strategies to strengthen cooperation in developing SMEs within the framework of the D-8 Organization, including by engaging external parties and development partners.
28. The discussion was centered on the following topics:
 - a. A strategy to maximize the strength of the D-8 Organization must be sought to broaden the market access of SMEs. Identified strengths of the D-8 Organization include population, GDP, and economic growth. This will, in turn, contribute to the increase of the D-8’s intra-trade.
 - b. Promotion of SMEs’ potential could be done through fairs and exhibitions with business matchmaking. The organization of the Forum, such as this one, is also helpful and, therefore, can be made into an annual event.
 - c. Other strategies that the D-8 Organization may employ to support the SMEs include the implementation of the Agreement on Visa Facilitation, facilitation to ease the travel for SMEs, and creating a network of contact points for SMEs.

IV. CLOSING

29. The Director of the International Organization Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Global Director of the D-8 HSP delivered their closing remarks. They thanked the participants for their contribution to the discussions during the Forum. They also appreciated SMEs who have introduced their products by participating in the exhibition as a part of the Forum.
30. Participants expressed gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, for the successful and excellent arrangements of the Forum. The Participants also appreciated the D-8 Secretariat and the D-8 HSP for their contribution and facilitation of the Forum.

31. The D-8 Secretary-General also paid courtesy calls and had bilateral meetings with Senior Officials of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which Reports are enclosed herewith. *****

Executive Summary

The First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market Abuja, 26-27 October 2022

1. The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, led the Delegation of the D-8 Secretariat attending the First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market (D-8 SME Forum) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26-27 October 2022. The D-8 SME Forum was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (MoFA), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office in Abuja, as part of activities to commemorate the 25th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of the D8 Organization. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria officially opened the Forum.
2. The Forum was attended by over 180 participants from Nigeria and member countries of D8, including Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Türkiye, who were represented by their Missions in Abuja. Representatives of international organizations such as UNDESA and IsDB also participated. The Forum had an exhibition by 12 SMEs from Nigeria who showcased their products through the exhibition organized for the duration of the Forum.
3. The Forum's key takeaways are centered on the following themes:
 - a. SMEs play a crucial role in economic development and attainment of SDGs by the D-8 Member States. However, challenges faced by SMEs still abound and include limited access to appropriate funding, lack of capacity for managerial skills, lack of access to raw materials, gender inequality, limited resources, the Covid-19 pandemic, and global geopolitical uncertainties, as well as regional-specific challenges.
 - b. SMEs showed a certain degree of resilience against the pandemic, and they need to enhance their capacity and resilience to prepare them to face another unforeseen disruption.
 - c. Governments must develop coherent policies and strategies to support the capacity-building of SMEs: access to finance, access to capital, technology acquirement,
4. The Secretary-General paid courtesy calls on the Vice-President of Nigeria, H.E. **Yemi Osinbajo, GCON**, and the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, H.E. Amb. Zubairu Dada. He also held bilateral meetings with Nigerian Government Agencies, namely the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN), and Nigerian Bulk Energy Trading Plc (NBET), as well as Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and SME Forum of Nigeria, as part efforts to enhance the visibility of D8 in Nigeria and to forge collaboration with them.
5. During the courtesy call to the **Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Oluyemi Oluleke Osinbajo, GCON**, the D-8 Secretary General presented the current status of the D-8 Organization, particularly on the D-8 PTA. The Vice President expressed his commitment to support the D-8 Organization and urged Member States to expedite the implementation of PTA, strengthen cooperation in the energy sector, and advance the health system.
6. In the courtesy call to the **Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, the D-8 Secretary-General, congratulated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for successfully organizing the First D-8 Forum on SME. The Honorable Minister of State reiterated Nigeria's readiness to host the soon-to-be-established D-8

Center for SMEs in Abuja and welcomed the initiative to organize the D-8 Forum on SMEs as the D-8's annual activity.

7. During the meeting with the **Director-General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)**, Mr. Olawale Tunde Fasanya, the D-8 Secretary-General welcomed the readiness of SMEDAN to host the proposed D-8 Center for SMEs in its premise. The DG SMEDAN also expressed his goal to broaden the SMEDAN's network, including with the KOSGEB from Türkiye. The two interlocutors also agreed to strengthen cooperation with development partners to further enhance the capacity of SMEs in the D-8 Organization.

8. In the meeting with the **Director-General of the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN)**, Mr. Ahmed Bolaji Nagode, the D-8 Secretary-General noted the activities of NAPTIN to develop human resources in energy production of Nigeria, through engaging with other development partners, such as the GIZ, JICA, and USAID. The D-8 Secretary-General also welcomed the proposal of the DG NAPTIN to forge closer cooperation with all Member States on the development of the capacity of energy producers.

9. In the meeting with the **Managing Director of the Nigerian Bulk Energy Trading Plc (NBET)**, Dr. Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, the D-8 Secretary-General informed that the Secretariat was considering organizing a private-sector-led D-8 Energy Forum in Nigeria, possibility in the first quarter of 2023, to provide a platform for energy producers from the D-8 Member States, particularly from the private sector. The MD NBET welcomed the proposal.

10. During the Meeting with the **2nd Vice President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA)**, Mr. Jani Ibrahim, the D-8 Secretary-General reiterated his views that the private sector is the primary driver of the economic cooperation in D-8. He invited NACCIMA to play a more significant role in boosting the intra-trade of the D-8 by engaging with chambers in all Member States. The two interlocutors also agreed to look into the possibility of organizing a private-sector-led D-8 Energy Forum in Nigeria, possibly in the first quarters of 2023.

11. In a Meeting with **Senior Officials of the SME Forum of Nigeria**, the D-8 Secretary-General welcomed the readiness of the SME Forum of Nigeria to support the establishment of the D-8 Center for SME in Abuja. He also invited the SME Forum of Nigeria to maximize the utilization of the Center, once established, to further enhance the capacity of its members. The D-8 Secretary-General also proposed linking the SME Forum's business portal with the D-8's website.

Observations

The Secretariat noted that participation from SMEs and Government representatives from the D-8 Member States was poor during the substantive portion of the Forum. The Forum presented lively discussions with various timely topics, resulting in notable recommendations. The Forum also served as a platform to initiate direct contact between businesses, which representatives from the D-8 Member States may have exploited.

Recommendations

12. Recommendations and ways forward emanated from the Forum include:
- a. The proposed establishment of a D-8 Center on SMEs in Abuja, Nigeria, to which the Government of Nigeria has expressed its readiness to host the center when operational, will assist in developing SMEs in the D8. The D-8 Secretariat would provide assistance and facilitation, as appropriate, for establishing the Center.
 - b. Drawing from the success of the current Forum, the proposal was tabled to make the D-8 Forum on SMEs an annual event on a rotating basis. The proposal would be

tabled during the 46th Session of the D-8 Commissioners' Meeting in January/February 2023.

- c. Cooperation with other organizations, particularly the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Islamic Development Bank, will be expanded further to support the D-8 efforts to create more strengthened and agile SMEs.
- d. The D-8 Organization has established the D-8 SMEs Task Force, which must be reinvigorated to ensure its effectiveness. The D-8 Secretariat is to engage with all focal points from the Member States to reinvigorate the Task Force.
- e. The Member States must strive to make an effort to attend the activities of the D-8 Organizations that are organized by the Secretariat or a particular Member State, if the D-8 Organization is to flourish and achieve its intended goal and purposes as mandated by our Leaders and enshrined in the Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2023.

Follow-up actions

13. Follow-up actions from the bilateral meetings include the following areas:
 - a. Formulating a concept note to organize subsequent editions of the D-8 Forum on SME and health market to be presented before the 46th Session of the D-8 Commissioners' Meeting.
 - b. Formulating a concept note for the private-sector-led D-8 Forum on Energy to be presented during the 46th Session of the D-8 Commissioners' Meeting and subsequently to other partner entities for their cooperation.
 - c. Draw up a plan of action for establishing the D-8 Center for SMEs in Abuja, Nigeria.
 - d. Engage with focal points from all D-8 Member States responsible for SMEs to reinvigorate the D-8 SME Task Force in conjunction with the establishment of the D-8 Center for SMEs.
14. Detailed Secretariat's Reports of the D-8 Forum in SME and Health Market and the D-8 Secretary-General bilateral meetings are enclosed.



Note Verbale No.: GEN/22/497

Subject: Report of the attendance of the D-8 Secretariat-General in the First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market, Abuja, Nigeria, 26-27 October 2022, and related activities

The D-8 Secretariat presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the D-8 Member States and has the honor to transmit, enclosed herewith, the report of the D-8 Secretary-General's attendance in the First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Enterprises and Health Market, jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26-27 October 2022.

The Secretariat has further the honor to inform the latter that, maximizing his presence in Abuja, the D-8 Secretary-General also paid a courtesy call on the Vice-President of Nigeria, H.E. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON, and the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada. He also held bilateral meetings with Nigerian Government Agencies, namely the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN), and Nigerian Bulk Energy Trading Plc (NBET), as well as Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and SME Forum of Nigeria, as part efforts to enhance the visibility of D-8 in Nigeria and to forge collaboration with them.

The D-8 Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the D-8 Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: As stated.



Istanbul, 10 November 2022

Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the D-8 Member States
D-8 Commissioners' Office