

**Report of the
3rd Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on Implementation of
Agreement of Simplification of Visa Procedure
On 24 March 2021 Virtually**

The 3rd Meeting of Consular Authorities of the D-8 Member States on the Implementation of Agreement of Simplification on Visa Procedure was held on 24th March 2021 virtually. Representatives of the D-8 Member States attended the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

Mr. Tariq Karim, Director General for Economic Coordination and Organization for Islamic Cooperation (EC & OIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan chaired and opened the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The meeting considered and adopted the agenda of the meeting, attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 4: Welcoming Remarks by the Director General for Economic Coordination and Organization for Islamic Cooperation (EC & OIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan as the D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan.

In his opening statement, H.E. Mr. Tariq Karim, the Director General for Economic Coordination and Organization for Islamic Cooperation (EC & OIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, as the D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan, welcomed the participants of the 3rd Meeting of Consular Authorities of the D-8 Member States on the Implementation of Agreement of Simplification on Visa Procedure. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of reducing the time for visa issuance process in order to facilitate business-to-business collaboration. He mentioned that Pakistan has liberalized the visa procedure overall and has launched an online visa portal. Through this, all D-8 Member States can benefit. The liberalized visa regime information can be obtained from <https://visa.nadra.gov.pk/>

His statement is attached as **Annex II**

Agenda Item 3: Statement by the D-8 Secretary General

H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the D-8 Secretary General, delivered his statement by welcoming the participants and updated the meeting of the progress made and highlighted the challenges in the implementation of the D-8 Visa Agreement. He emphasized the need to expedite and optimize visa exemption, or at least, simplification. He also stresses the importance of the implementation of the agreement in order to boost trade among Member States.

His attachment is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion on the Visa Issuance Procedures of Each Member States

The Chairman invited delegates for discussion on visa issuance procedure in their respective countries.

The D-8 Secretariat elaborated on the informative paper circulated to all member states on the matter and comprehensively briefed the meeting about the progress made after the 2nd meeting on the simplification of visa procedure.

The participants informed the meeting about the practices of visa issuance process in each Member States in details. The delegation of Bangladesh informed that currently the country is in the process of implementing modernized visa simplification regime. The delegations of Indonesia and Pakistan informed the meeting that the liberated e-visa regime is already in place.

The Nigerian participant comprehensively briefed the meeting about the new simplified visa regime introduced by the country and explain that relaxation has been introduced for ease of doing business.

Based on the discussion, the Chairman urged the meeting to develop a mechanism in order to expedite the visa issuance process for businessmen in all the D-8 member states.

The informative paper is enclosed as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on the mechanism of visa simplification procedure for the verified D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries businessmen (based on the list sent by each member states)

The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the progress made in this regard and informed the meeting that so far, four Member States, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan have introduced the verified businessmen list and urged the remaining Member States to expedite action and submit their verified lists of businessmen to the Secretariat in order to advance the process.

The meeting took note and encouraged the remaining Member States to deposit the lists as soon as possible. The meeting also agreed on the importance of the liberalization of the visa procures for the D-8 business community in order to further enhance collaboration.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion on issuance of D-8 Visa Card to the Business Community of the D-8 Member States

The Secretariat informed the meeting about its new project of D8 Payment Card that is aimed at enabling citizens of Member States to use their local currency in trade and provide a new eco system that will enable us to reduce the dominance of foreign currencies especially in foreign payments and settlements.

The Secretariat further highlighted the Special Security features of the D-8 Payment card and hence it can be used as a D-8 Visa Identification card and urged the Member States to develop the mechanism, in collaboration with the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries as well as the Ministries of Interior and other relevant authorities and agencies, to come up with a proposal in this regard.

The meeting appreciated the Secretariat for its efforts and encouraged the Member States to further develop cooperation in this regard, The Indonesian delegate stressed the need to look into the possibility of developing similar mechanism as APEC business travel card which is already in practice and two of the D-8 Member States, namely Indonesia and Malaysia are parties to the agreement.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on D-8 Designated Airports

The Secretariat comprehensively briefed the meeting on the initiative of establishing D-8 Designated Airports in each Member State in order to promote people to people and Business to Business contacts as well as tourism and travel facilitation among all Member States with a view to later on establish a D-8 Airports Association that would provide Airport facilities and services for the D-8 citizens.

The Secretariat is also informed the meeting that so far, Member States have designated three Airports including Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja, Nigeria and Jinnah International Airport Karachi and urged other Member States to designate one or more D-8 designated airports in order not only to increase the volume of socio-economic activities but also to showcase our Organization to the entire world.

The meeting commended the Secretary-General's efforts and assured their support in the implementation of the initiative.

Indonesian delegate welcomed the initiative of D-8 Designated Airports and graciously announced Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta as D-8 Designated Airport.

The Indonesian delegate also assured the meeting that more airports are to be introduced as part of the initiative.

Agenda Item 9: Date and venue of the 4th Meeting of Consular Authorities

The People's Republic of Bangladesh graciously volunteered to host the 4th Meeting of the D-8 Consular Authorities.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

There were no discussions have made under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration and Adoption of the Report

The Report of the 3rd Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on the Implementation of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures was considered and adopted.

Closing Remarks:

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the participants for their valuable contributions and fruitful discussions. He called for early action to be taken on all matters deliberated upon at the meeting so that progress can be made.

The delegates also appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing the meeting. They also thanked the Chair for his competent handling of the proceedings of the meeting and the Secretariat for its excellent work and support.

The 3rd Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on Implementation of Agreement of Simplification of Visa Procedure was adjourned on 24th March 2021.