

**Report of the
46th Session of the D-8 Commission
Istanbul
15-16 February 2023**

The 46th Session of the D-8 Commission was held from 15-16 February 2023 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Wahida Ahmed, the D-8 Commissioner and Director General, International Organizations Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. The Commissioners/Delegates from all Member States attended. List of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the Chair of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

The Chair delivered her opening statement and welcomed the delegates to the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission. Her statement is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and 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 and progress report on activities since July 2022 by the D-8 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 on Sectoral Cooperation and External Relations, since July 2022. His statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4: Statement by the Heads of Delegation of Member States

The Heads of delegation of Member States delivered their statements. Their statements are attached as **Annex V**.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration and approval of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat

The Secretary-General presented the Draft Budget proposal for 2023 for approval of the Commission for decision on the following:

- a) Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2023
- b) Budgetary allocation for Assistant Director and Program Officer

After comprehensive discussion, the Commission decided the following:

- a) In view of the global financial situation, the Commission agreed that the 5% increase in the budget of 2023 will be met from General Reserve Fund, allowing ZERO percent increase in the annual contributions of individual member states.
- b) The Commission also approved the allocation for the posts of Assistant Director and Program Officer starting from July 2023.
- c) The contributions of the member states for 2023 will be based on the present contribution scales. However, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to represent the proposal in the next Commission meeting to reassess the scale of contribution in line with Article 12.1 of the D-8 financial regulations which states that, “The scale of assessment of D-8 countries to the annual budget of the Secretariat will be based on the prevailing UN scale of assessment and capacity to pay (GDP), taking into account the experience of other regional organizations”.
- d) No fund will be allocated for the Project Support Fund for 2023.
- e) Delegation of Iran clarified that the delay of payment of dues has been caused due to the financial / technical issues related to sanctions, and it is not related to their capacity to pay. In response, the Secretary General expressed

readiness to work with Iran in order to find a solution for early payment of the dues, including through the waiver that may be obtained as was the case in relation to Iran's dues to the United Nations.

The updated budget of the Secretariat for 2023 is attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on the proposed changes in D-8 Statutory Documents

As per decision of the 45th Session of the Commission the Secretary-General presented the suggested updates in the statutory documents and requested the Commission to endorse the proposed amendments.

The Commission deliberated upon the proposed amendments and tasked the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive paper including the charter of responsibilities, financial and administrative aspects for the senior level post of Deputy Secretary General which was approved at the 20th Session of the Commission (Bali, 2006). Minor amendments were endorsed by the Commission as attached as **Annex VII**.

Agenda Item 7: 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.

The delegates deliberated on the progress made in their own countries on the status of ratification and/or implementation of these legal instruments namely, (D-8 Charter, D-8 PTA, Visa and Customs Agreements, MoU on Civil Aviation and MoU between SME's and Governmental bodies).

- The Commissioner of Egypt informed the meeting that his country is in the process of finalizing the D-8 PTA and consequently be deposited with the Secretariat.
- The Commissioner of Pakistan informed that a summary on the MoU on SMEs Governmental Bodies was submitted to the Cabinet for approval and will be deposited with the Secretariat once approved.

- The Commissioners of Indonesia and Malaysia informed that they are in consultation with relevant agencies on ratification of the MoU on SMEs Governmental Bodies.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on procedure of granting Observer Status and Permitting the Accession of New Members into the organization

The Secretary-General updated the meeting on the progress made by the Working Group meetings on establishing criteria and modalities for granting observer status and allowing the admission of new members into the organization.

After continued discussions, the WG submitted a draft text to the Commission.

The draft text submitted to the Commission was discussed in detail, and in the absence of consensus, the Commission decided to refer the matter to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

Agenda Item 9: Discussions on the reports presented by the Secretariat regarding proposals from the Member States on the establishment of the following:

- a) **D-8 Youth Council**
- b) **D-8 SME Center**

The Secretary-General presented the key findings of the two Working Papers (prepared by the Secretariat) on the proposals of Bangladesh and Nigeria regarding the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council and the D-8 SME Center.

After further discussion, the Nigerian delegation conceded that the Youth Council will be hosted by Bangladesh. The Commission further requested both members to resubmit the concept papers on the proposed youth council and SME center to the Secretariat for sharing with member states after incorporating governing structure, including administrative and financial mechanism.

Agenda Item 10: Discussions on the report presented by the Secretariat regarding the Institutionalization of Diplomatic Training for Diplomats from D-8 Member States

The Secretariat presented the updated paper on Institutionalization of Diplomatic Training for Diplomats from the D-8 Member States.

The Commission deliberated upon the updated paper presented by the Secretariat and decided as follows:

- i. A sequence to host the program will be followed on voluntary basis rather than alphabetically.
- ii. Pakistan offered to accommodate one or two diplomats annually from D-8 countries to attend the existing diplomatic training programs organized by Pakistan.
- iii. Bangladesh informed that their Foreign Service Academy is willing to host the program in line with the proposal of the updated paper presented by the Secretariat and the modalities will be shared with the member states.
- iv. Nigeria is in the process of operationalizing the Foreign Service Academy and modalities will be shared in due course with member states.
- v. Also, Iran proposed to explore other financial resources for funding of the trainings, such as IsDB and other development partners.

Agenda Item 11: Discussion on the report presented by the Secretariat on Financing mechanism of Affiliate Bodies in D-8 in comparison with similar International Organizations

The Secretary-General presented the Commission with the main findings of the Paper prepared by the Secretariat on Financing Mechanism of Affiliate Bodies, comparing D-8 organization with similar international organizations.

After discussions, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to submit a detailed working paper, which would cover all aspects related to governance, funding, administrative arrangements and their relationship with D-8 Organization.

The Commission urged all Affiliate bodies to continue to explore financial support from international organizations and D-8 Development Partners.

Agenda Item 12: Discussion on the governing structure of the affiliated bodies

The Secretary-General requested the esteemed Commission to review and decide upon the suggested structure for the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), as received from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran. The Commission took note of the proposed document and decided

that the High Council of D-8 TTEN would review the documents for adoption.

Malaysia also submitted its comments on proposed D-8 TTEN governing structure and organizational charter, attached as **Annex VIII**.

Nigeria informed the Commission that the Governing Council structure of the D-8 HSP in Abuja is being finalized and will be transmitted to the Secretariat in due course.

Agenda item 13: Endorsement of applications for facility under the Project Support Fund

The Commission decided not to discuss this Agenda item as no fund will be allocated for the Project Support Fund for 2023.

Agenda item 14: Brief on D-8 Special Economic Zone by Bangladesh

The Head of delegation of Bangladesh informed the meeting about the progress made on the establishment of the D-8 Special Economic Zone and requested for views based on the presentation which is attached as **Annex IX**.

Member states welcomed and appreciated the proposal from Bangladesh, and suggested that a meeting can be convened with the participation of the relevant authorities from member states.

Agenda Item 15: Progress reports on the Affiliated Institutions of the D-8

- a) D-8 Health and Social protection Programme office (HSP)
- 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 (RCAFS)

HSP, TTEN, NPRI and RCAFS presented comprehensive reports to the Commission. The Commission appreciated the progress achieved so far.

On the request of Nigeria to provide financial support to HSP, the Commission recommended HSP to send a request to the Secretariat through the Foreign Ministry of Nigeria, which will be circulated among all members for their positive consideration.

Presentations are attached as **Annex X**.

Agenda Item 16: Progress reports on the following Private Sector initiatives

- a) D-8 Payment card
- b) D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC)
- c) D-8 Barter Trading system

The delegation from D-8 CEFC presented the progress report on the initiative. After deliberation the Commission welcomed the progress made and enjoined member states to make use of the CEFC to promote the economic activities of the organization.

The Commission were confident, once implemented, the CEFC will generate revenue for the organization.

The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Alhidayah Group and D-8 Malaysia Foundation for its donation to the victims of the Earthquake in Turkiye.

Agenda Item 17: Update on the Calendar of Events for 2023-2024

The Secretariat presented the Draft Calendar of Events for 2023-2024 to the Commission. Delegates updated the Commission on their countries' readiness to host the enlisted events. An updated Calendar of Events is attached as **Annex-XI**.

Agenda item 18: Date and Venue of the Next D-8 Commission Meeting

Bangladesh will inform the Secretariat on the date of the 47th Session of the Commission in due course. The delegation of Bangladesh also informed the meeting that they will not be in a position to continue as Chair beyond April 2024.

Agenda item 19: Any Other Business

Under this Agenda item, the following proposals were discussed:

- a. Nigeria's Proposal on D-8 Energy Forum
- b. Iran's Proposal on rotation on D-8 Chairmanship
- c. Iran's Proposal on Establishment of D-8 Parliamentary Assembly
- d. Joint Communique of the D-8 Commissioners on The Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria
- e. Secretariat proposal on establishing D-8 Committee in third countries and international organization.

The Commission deliberated the proposals as follows:

Appreciating Nigeria's proposal on D-8 Energy Forum in Abuja, decided that the proposal should be circulated through the Secretariat for further comments by the member states.

Noting Iran's proposal on the rotation of the D-8 Chairmanship, decided to maintain the established practice of the rotation of the Chairmanship of the Organization.

Noting Iran's proposal on establishment of the D-8 Parliamentary Assembly, decided to focus on already established D-8 Affiliate institutions and avoid duplications with existing parliamentary cooperation.

The meeting adopted Iran's proposed Joint Communique of the D-8 Commissioners on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria.

The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Secretariat on establishing the D-8 Committees in third countries and international organizations, and urged the member states to share their comments to the Secretariat in due course.

The proposals are attached as **Annex XII**.

Agenda Item 20: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission

The Commission considered and adopted the Report of its 46th Session.

Agenda Item 21: Closing of the Meeting

The Chair appreciated and thanked all the delegates for their constructive and positive contributions throughout the meeting proceedings. She also commended the

D-8 Secretariat for their work and excellent arrangements for the meeting.

The Secretary-General also thanked the Chairperson and the Commissioners for the meeting outcome.

The 46th Session of the Commission was adjourned on 16 February 2023.

Annex I
List of the Participants of the
46th Session of the D-8 Commission
15 – 16 February, 2023

Country	#	Name and Designation	Mail address	Mobile number
Bangladesh	1	Ms. Wahida Ahmed (The D-8 Commissioner and Director General, International Organizations Wing, MFA, Dhaka; and Chair for Bangladesh)	dgio@mofa.gov.bd	+88-01777329583
	2	Mr. Md. Shakil Sahrrior (Director, International Organizations Wing, MFA, Dhaka)	dirio@mofa.gov.bd	+88-01711007847
Egypt	3	Mr. Ragui El-Etreby (The D-8 Commissioner and Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral, International and Regional Economic Affairs and Personal Representative of the President to the G20)	ragui.eletreby@mfa.gov.eg ragui.eletreby@gmail.com	+20-1063333511
Indonesia	4	Mr. Tri Tharyat (The D-8 Commissioner and Head of Delegation)	Set.dirjenksm@kemlu.go.id	-
	5	Mr. Arief Rachmat Hidayat (First Secretary, MFA)	arief.rachmat@kemlu.go.id	+62-8111303303
	6	Mr. Pradono Anindito (Second Secretary, Delegation)	pradono.anindito@kemlu.go.id	+62-81932026261
	7	Ms. Thalita Evani Hindarto (Third Secretary, Consulate General of Indonesia in Turkey)	thalita.hindarto@kemlu.go.id	+90-2126748686

Country	#	Name and Designation	Mail address	Mobile number
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	9	Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi (Director for Multilateral Economic Organizations, MFA)	Atash701@gmail.com	+98-9125609060
	10	Ms. Neda Alikhani (Expert)	Alikhani.neda@yahoo.com	+98-9198461327
	11	Mr. Milad Sadrkhanlou (D-8 TTEN Secretary)	miladsadr@techpark.ir	+98-9122071050
	12	Mr. Saeid Khajavi (Legal Expert, MFA)	s.khajavi@gmail.com	+98-9120221401
Malaysia	13	Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil Mohd Riza (The D-8 Commissioner)	akamariz@kln.gov.my	+60-388874593
	14	Mr. Mohd Zhafrie Johari (Assistant Secretary D-8, MFA)	zhafrie@kln.gov.my	+60-179693384
Nigeria	15	Mr. Samson Itegboje (Head of Delegation and Director for International Organizations Department)	sitegboje@yahoo.com	+234-8067068093
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	18	Mr. Eugene Edeoga Raaluchukwu (Head of Strategy, Coordination and Cooperate Communications, NBET)	eugene.edeoga@nbet.com.ng	+234-8036391423
	19	Mr. Sambo Abdullahi Alabi (Head of Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics, NBET)	sambo.abdullahi@nbet.com.ng	+234-8037655386

Country		Name and Designation	Mail address	Mobile number
Nigeria	20	Mr. Abubakar Jibril (Assistant Manager of Strategy and Communication)	abubakar.jibril@nbet.com.ng	+234-8038707967
	21	Mr. Mohammed Khalilu (Second Secretary, Embassy of Nigeria – Ankara)	mkhalilu@gmail.com	+90-5364278470
	22	Mr. Nura Tela (Special Assistant to the Director General, SMEDAN)	nuratela@yahoo.com	+234-8033603560
Pakistan	23	Ms. Asima Rabbani (The D-8 Commissioner and Director General OIC & EC & ED)	dg.ec&oic@mofa.gov.pk	051-9207575
	24	Mr. Jawad Ali (Director)	Jawadjac3284@gmail.com	+92-3215327264
Türkiye	25	Ms. Esen Altug (The D-8 Commissioner and Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs)	ealtug@mfa.gov.tr	-
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Statement

**H.E. Wahida Ahmed, D-8 Commissioner and Chair for Bangladesh
at the Opening of the 46th Session of D-8 Commission**

**Excellency Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Excellency Commissioners of the D-8
Distinguished Members of the Delegation**

Assalamualaikum and a very good day.

I welcome you all today for the 46th D-8 Commission which is taking place for the first time at the D-8 Secretariat. Please let me extend my heartiest thanks to the Secretary General and his team for arranging the meeting here. At the very onset let us observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkiye and Syria. Bangladesh would like to extend our heartfelt condolence to the victim of the earthquake and pray for the salvation of the departure souls. We pray for the quick recovery of the wounded and hope that the rescue work will be successfully completed. Bangladesh would like to reiterate her firm stand to be beside the Government of Turkiye during this time of need. We have sent trained rescue team from our Armed Forces and Fire Defence and have also committed to provide assistance in the form of goods.

Excellencies,

I would like you all to join me in welcoming Her Excellency Dr. Asima Rabbani as the new Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The D-8 is evolving and incorporating new areas of cooperation including the areas of technology, connectivity, youth empowerment, education, trade and

investment. I would like to thank the Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and the D-8 Secretariat for their relentless efforts over the time.

We are gathered here together again on a common platform and I hope we will be able to contribute fruitfully towards this organization.

Excellencies,

D-8 has passed the take-off stage and now it is time we take collective initiatives to utilize the factors that have brought our eight countries together through our similar demographics and consumption pattern, common development needs and experience and common inherited industrial infrastructure. We need to devise ways and means for merging the challenge of the 4IR with the human potentials of our countries. After spending the last two decades in identifying the areas which are common for our economic development and formulating policies and cooperation network to accomplish this goal we now need to start our work in earnest. We have the potential of businesses and entrepreneurs - who can - with greater incentives and ease of doing business, leverage and capture global markets to their benefit. The D-8 Business Forum is working towards this goal.

Employment creation and livelihood standard is a challenge faced by us particularly during this current global crisis situation when the economies of our D-8 member states are also adversely affected. We as an economic organization have the responsibility to create conducive environment by dealing with not only intra-regional necessities and inequalities, but also necessities and inequalities that are global in nature, through pro-active deliberations and associations. We need to take lessons from the present global crisis and concentrate on developing alternate energy source and augment our agriculture productivity for the security of our people.

Excellencies,

After the Covid-19 and the current global crisis particularly in energy, fertilizer and fuel caused due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, we must have understood the importance of peace to create conducive environment for economic growth. The lessons that we have learned has taught us how to survive in a new world order facing multifaceted challenges. As the global economy is at a critical stage, we the D-8 countries should think beyond any constraints and make the fullest use of this organization. The potentiality of the D-8 has not been explored yet to its fullest. Let us take this opportunity to move forward as an economic bloc.

As the largest LDC in its graduation transition, Bangladesh, under the prudent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina continues to brave through post-pandemic odds and the current global crisis with a robust resilience.

Excellencies,

Dire time teaches us the importance to be with each other and to work and learn from each other. With a combined population of over a billion and an economy projected to reaching the forty trillion marks by 2050 with intra- trade of 129 billion dollar we are only limited by our imagination to make our organisation, one of real-time cooperation, mutual trust and understanding, which can deliver on its true potential.

I wish you a successful outcome of the meeting.

Agenda
46th Session of the D-8 Commission
15-16 February 2023

1. Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the Chair of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda
3. Statement and progress report on activities since July 2022 by the D-8 Secretary-General
 - a) Sectoral Cooperation
 - b) External Relations
4. Statement by the Heads of Delegation of Member States (Five Minutes each)
5. 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) Budgetary allocation for Assistant Director and Program Officer
6. Discussion on the proposed changes in D-8 Statutory Documents
7. Consideration of the status of the D-8 Legal Instruments
8. Discussion on procedure of granting Observer Status and Permitting the Accession of New Members into the organization
9. Discussions on the reports presented by the Secretariat regarding proposals from the Member States on the establishment of the following:
 - a) D-8 Youth Council
 - b) D-8 SME Center
10. Discussions on the report presented by the Secretariat regarding the Institutionalization of Diplomatic Training for Diplomats from D-8 Member States.
11. Discussion on the report presented by the Secretariat on Financing mechanism of Affiliate Bodies in D-8 in comparison with similar International Organizations.
12. Discussion on the governing structure of the affiliated bodies
13. Endorsement of applications for facility under the Project Support Fund.

14. Brief on D-8 Special Economic Zones by Bangladesh.
15. Progress report on the Affiliate 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 Center for Agriculture and Food Security.
16. Progress reports on the following Private Sector initiatives
 - a. D-8 Payment card
 - b. D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC)
 - c. D-8 Barter Trading system
17. Update on the Calendar of Events for 2023-2024.
18. Date and Venue of the Next D-8 Commission Meeting.
19. Any Other Business.
 - a. Nigeria's Proposal on D-8 Energy Forum
 - b. Iran's Proposal on rotation on D-8 Chairmanship
 - c. Iran's Proposal on Establishment of D-8 Parliamentary Assembly
 - d. Joint Communique of the D-8 Commissioners on The Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria
 - e. Secretariat proposal on establishing D-8 Committee in third countries and international organization.
20. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission
21. Closing of the Meeting

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ISIKA ABDULQADIR IMAM, THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL, AT THE 46TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION, ISTANBUL, 15-16 FEBRUARY 2023

Your Excellency Madame Wahida Ahmed, D-8 Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh/Chair of the D-8 Commission,

Your Excellencies D-8 Commissioners,

Distinguished Delegates of the D-8 Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuuhu.

Very good morning to you all.

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to Istanbul for the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission. I am grateful that you make and take time to attend this august gathering.

Permit me, Madam Chair, to use this occasion to officially welcome His Excellency **Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby**, Assistant Minister for Multilateral International and Regional Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of **Egypt**, and Her Excellency **Dr. Asima Rabbani**, Director General for Organization for Islamic Cooperation and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, who recently joined our family as the D-8 Commissioners.

Before continuing, allow me to extend my deepest condolences to the people and Government of the Republic of Türkiye for the hardship caused by the devastating earthquake on 6 February 2023. I pray may Allah the almighty grants strength and consolation to all affected people. I welcome the swift response from the D-8 Member States in assisting Türkiye during this dire time of need. I trust that those assistances contribute significantly to the Turkish response to the disaster. *Your Excellency Madame Esen Altuğ, please accept the deepest condolences from all of us.*

My heartfelt sympathies also go to the Government and People of Pakistan following the terrorist attack in Peshawar, Pakistan, that claimed the lives of around 100 worshippers last month. Our hearts go out to the impacted people, and we pray to Almighty Allah to help them recover from the losses and destruction... ameen.

Madame Chair, Excellencies,

I am pleased to report that our beloved organization has achieved significant progress since the last commission in July 2022. The Secretariat has also completed all the tasks allocated to by the 45th Commission and same have been circulated to the member states.

A little more than a year since I assumed the post of the Secretary-General of this organization, we have recorded more activities and engagement in priority areas, including our relations with external partners. All thanks to the Almighty Allah and the Members' active contribution and, of course, also the effective leadership of Bangladesh. I trust you have received the detailed report of such progress. Therefore, allow me, Madam Chair, to provide some highlights of our progress – and also our challenges in progressing further.

On the **sectoral front**, where activities are driven mainly by member states, we noted several activities. I am happy to report that the **Industry and SME, Transportation, particularly civil aviation, and the Creative Economy** sectors organized several activities between July 2022 and February 2023. Those activities were able to come up with notable recommendations that we must follow up on.

For example, during their 12th Meeting in Bali in October last year, the Civil Aviation authorities of our organization agreed to convene meetings of the task forces more frequently, twice every year. Similarly, the SME Forum and Health Market, held in Abuja in October 2022, paved the way for the proposed establishment of a D-8 Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises, which will be a game changer in fast-tracking the development of SMEs in D8. SMEs are known to constitute 90 % of the businesses in the D8 countries.

Madame Chair, Excellencies,

On **trade**, we are now closer to fully operationalizing the D-8 preferential trade agreement (D-8 PTA). We completed the negotiation for the PTA's Trade Facilitation Strategy and Dispute Settlement Mechanism protocols last year. All that is left to do is convene the Supervisory Committee and the Trade Ministers Meetings to adopt those protocols officially. We look forward to Bangladesh convening these all-important meetings, hopefully in March this year. The Meetings will strike the gavel, marking the organization-wide application of the PTA.

It is essential to add that some Member States have already expressed their readiness to trade under the PTA. For those who are ready, please do so. The D-8 PTA would only be valid if our private sector actively engages and utilize it. For this reason, and to support our endeavor, I want to call upon Member States to invigorate their respective national chambers of commerce to jointly raise the awareness of business entities on the D-8 PTA and its vast potential. Therefore, it is crucial that all efforts should be made at the national, regional, and global levels to publicize the D8 PTA, effectively.

Madame Chair, Excellencies,

I am happy to report that tremendous progress has been recorded in the area of external relations since our last meeting. We strengthened our engagement with the United Nations by participating in the 77th UNGA in September last year. While in New York, I managed to have nine separate meetings, including with the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organizations, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and senior officers from other organizations. The meetings produced tangible results, which are contained in the detailed report on external relations before you.

Furthermore, we have partnered with UN Specialised Agencies, such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCATD), to organize capacity-building programs for stakeholders from our member states. Foremost among such programs is the Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementing New Approaches to e-Government for SDG Implementation, jointly organized by the UN DESA in a face-to-face meeting in November last year here in Istanbul.

The UN DESA provided funding for the Workshop, covering the meeting package, air tickets, and per diem for two participants from each Member State. The total monetary value of the Workshop was approximately 55.000 Euros. Cooperation with UN DESA is the best model of cooperation with other international organizations, where we can tap the resources of other organizations to strengthen our cooperation. And that is what I set to achieve for the forthcoming years.

We also collaborated with MUSIAD, one of the prominent business associations in Türkiye, to organize a business forum in November last year, which was attended by some D8 Ambassadors in Türkiye. All meeting requirements, including venue, were provided for by MUSIAD. To sustain our engagement with this prominent business association which

has over 13.000 members, we signed an MoU during the MUSIAD – D8 Business Summit in November last year to cover the organization of joint programs in diverse economic areas such as energy, agriculture, SME development, health, ICT, etc.

Undoubtedly, our collective efforts on the external front have increased the organization's visibility, substantially. This is evident from the various invitations received to attend high-level meetings in member states and globally. For example, last month, I attended the 26th Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, at the invitation of the ECO. That meeting afforded me the opportunity to meet with the Honorable Foreign Ministers of Iran and Pakistan, separately, as well as leaders of the ECO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measure in Asia (CICA), and a representative of the Asian Development Bank.

Furthermore, the Organization is now being invited to co-organize joint programs in member states and beyond. For instance, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has agreed to partner with D8 to jointly organise capacity building program on Intellectual Property for SMEs, while UNCTAD has invited D8 to collaborate for an investment program at the forthcoming World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi in October 2023. Similarly, D8 has been invited by UNDESA to a joint event on the role of SMEs in attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the margin of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2023.

The detailed report of the D-8 Secretariat's External Relations is encapsulated in Annex 3.2, which is placed before you, for consideration.

Madame Chair, Excellencies Commissioners,

While the progress is there, we also face challenges in moving forward. The conflict on the border between Ukraine and Russia shadowed our previous meeting in Dhaka. Little did we anticipate that it would drag on until today. We must be alarmed by the escalation of the conflict, which exacerbated our well-being and triggered an economic crisis in most of our member states.

I realize that our economies are now under dire stress from those multitudes of crises. I also acknowledge full well that it led to a non-consensual outcome in terms of the organization's budget, including the proposal to increase the salary of the Secretariat's staff, significantly. However, I want to strongly appeal that this august gathering could

positively consider the Secretariat's proposal to increase the budget of the organization, to make ends meet.

Madam Chair, Another critical area that I would like to draw your attention to is the lack of funds to support our projects and programs. The sole source of income of the Secretariat remains the annual contribution from the member states, which is used for the day-to-day running of the Secretariat, including payment of staff salaries and allowances. However, the contribution we receive from Member States barely meets our daily routine expenses.

Today, we are facing a problem to support our Project Support Fund program, which is funded from within the Secretariat's budget. Given our collective resolve to move the organization forward, in line with our 2020 -2030 Roadmap, it is imperative that we begin to explore novel ways to generate additional income for the Organization. We at the Secretariat are working assiduously to explore the possibility of collaborating with Development Partners and donors to finance some of the Organization's activities and projects, including the Project Support Fund initiative. On this note, I would like to humbly request that Member States make a voluntary contribution to the Secretariat in order to fund Projects, initiatives/programs, including the PSF, which must be sustained.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The Agenda for today's meeting is quite extensive. The Agenda placed before you are for your consideration, guidance, and decisions. The adopted Agenda reflects many vital issues that must be decided to enable our organization to move forward. With your permission, Madam Chair, I would like to highlight some important agenda items to be discussed today. Chief among the pressing issue is the Organization's budget for 2023, which we shall discuss in agenda item 5. And in line with my earlier statement, I cannot stress enough the importance of agreeing to and adopting the Organization's budget.

We also need to decide on the foreseen expansion of our organization under agenda item 8. I shall commend the Working Group, which met yesterday, for coming up with recommendations on this pertinent issue. The Secretariat also received several valuable proposals and ideas to enrich the Organization, which we will discuss under agenda items 8, 10, 13, and 14. On the other hand, we will also review the already existing initiatives under agenda 15 and ideas on how to govern the initiatives under items 11, 12, and 16.

We must also decide our way forward by deliberating agenda item 18, containing several proposed activities in agriculture, energy, tourism, transportation, information, and communication technology, as well as education, to take place in 2023.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

Our long list of topics to be discussed reflects our organization's dynamic. It is a testament to how far we have come since the foundation of our organization more than a quarter of a century ago. Yet, we can move further – and faster – with the active contribution of all Member States. Therefore, I call upon all distinguished Commissioners to engage in constructive discussion during our two-day meeting. Be rest assured, Excellencies, that I will contribute my utmost to facilitate the discussion. I will also gladly provide my views when the needs arise.

Madame Chair, Excellencies Commissioners, Distinguished Delegates.

To conclude, I want to reiterate my utmost appreciation to you all for participating in this Meeting. Thank you immensely for your continuous support and consideration toward the Secretariat. With your support, I can commit that the Secretariat will execute our mandate to produce the best outcomes for our beloved organization's benefit. And I am fervently sure that all of us at the Secretariat will be able to count on your support in the coming years. Your support will also embolden our shared resolve to achieve our objectives, set out by our founders and reiterated by our leaders.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby
Egypt's Commissioner to the D-8 Organization**

46th Session of the D-8 Commission

(Istanbul, 15-16 February 2023)

**Her Excellency Ambassador Wahida Ahmed, the Honorable
Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

**His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Honorable
D-8 Secretary General,**

**Most distinguished Commissioners, Excellencies, and Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me at the outset to convey on behalf of the government and people of Egypt our deepest condolences and solidarity with Türkiye, its people, and the families of the victims of the deadly earthquake that hit Türkiye. Our thoughts and prayers are for those who lost their lives. We hope for a speedy recovery for both Türkiye and Syria from this tragic and painful situation.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to the current Chair of the D-8, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for its effective Presidency of the organization. I would also like to commend the tireless efforts of His Excellency Ambassador Abdulqadir Imam and the Secretariat for the advancement of the D-8, and for promoting economic cooperation among the Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this is the first time for me to attend the D-8 Session of the Commission, after assuming my role as Egypt's D-8 Commissioner in July

2022, I can attest to the fact that the D-8 has achieved some remarkable steps in realizing its long-term objective of creating economic linkages and promoting cooperation in several areas among its Member States. I note with appreciation the level of sectoral cooperation achieved so far by the organization, especially in the area of trade, as the Organization is set to enter a new phase as soon as the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) enters into force. I would like to underscore in this regard that the relevant Egyptian authorities are keen on expediting the ratification process of the PTA, preferably before the third D-8 Ministerial Meeting.

Egypt commends many initiatives presented by the organization's Secretariat and Member States to widen the scope of the engagement of the private sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises, in the fulfillment of economic cooperation between Member States. In this sense, Egypt looks forward to increasing the role of the private sector in providing value added for our sectoral working groups, especially in trade, commerce, and information technology and communication. We also hope that the crystallization of the proposed D-8 SME Center and the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center will unleash the untapped creative potential of our private sectors in promoting economic cooperation between Member States.

In the same vein, I express my full support to H.E the Secretary General's idea that we as Member States need to take effective measures to revitalize the D-8 working groups on education, tourism, agriculture, energy, transportation, trade, and information and communication technology by increasing the frequencies of our regular meeting through promoting online hosting of technical meetings.

Regarding the progress report of external relations, Egypt expresses its hope that the work of the D-8 external relation team will continuously increase the visibility of the D-8 organization internationally, and will hence contribute to producing tangible outputs for our organization, especially in terms of elaborating joint programs in areas of expertise and enhancing the capacity building for our teams.

Esteemed Commissioners,

We have important agenda items at hand, ranging from various proposals to the D-8 budget for 2023, and discussions on important matters, including the discussion on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization. We take note of the proposals presented by both Bangladesh and Nigeria to establish the D-8 Youth Forum, and we hope that both countries agree on the host country and provide us with additional details regarding the structure, organization, and goals of the proposed Youth Council. We also would appreciate it if the Islamic Republic of Iran could provide us with further details on the structure of its proposed D-8 Parliamentary Assembly.

Egypt reiterates its support to the proposal by Bangladesh on the D-8 Special Economic Zones, and we look forward to thoroughly study Egypt's active engagement with this promising idea that we believe will help increase the level of intra D-8 trade among Member States, that currently falls short of our expectations.

Regarding the Draft Budget proposal for 2023, we reiterate our position stated during the last Special Session of the D-8 Commission held virtually in November 2022 that any increase in the Secretariat's budget should not be at the expense of placing any additional financial burdens on our countries, especially since many of our nations are trying to recover from the adverse economic and financial consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, and its subsequent wave of inflation and fiscal tightening.

Egypt appreciates the progress made by the D-8 affiliated bodies, such as the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation, the Enhancing Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Research among D-8 Countries (ECSTRA D-8), and the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security. In this sense, we agree with the Secretariat's recommendations that affiliated bodies should enjoy a certain degree of autonomy to generate revenues and that they should have a defined governing structure. Nevertheless, I would like to underscore that this level of much-needed

independence should always align with the D-8 overarching strategic goals and objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt has always been keen on upholding its commitments to the D-8 goals. Egypt is currently in the process of ratifying the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). We will continue our efforts in this regard to speed up the process of ratification by the Egyptian Parliament.

I would also like to highlight that Egypt has ratified many of the D-8's MoUs, particularly that on Civil Aviation and the MoU between SMEs and Governmental bodies. Egyptian officials have been participating in various projects and programs on many sectoral issues within the D-8, such as health, education, tourism, and research.

Dear Colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to express Egypt's commitment to continue working on enhancing the cooperation with the Members of the D-8, with the aim of achieving our common objectives as stated in the D-8 Charter, and I would like to express my wishes for a successful meeting and fruitful discussions that will hopefully allow us to reach an agreement on the key issues before us in the coming two days.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement
H.E. Tri Tharyat, Director-General for Multilateral Cooperation
D-8 Commissioner from Indonesia
at the 46th Session of D-8 Commission
Istanbul, 15 February 2023

- **Her Excellency Wahida Ahmed, Director-General of International Organizations Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh;**
- **His Excellency Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of D-8**
- **Honorable Commissioners,**

Assalaamu'alaikum warrahmatullaahi wabarakatuh,

1. Before I deliver my statement, allow me to offer my most heartfelt thoughts and condolences to all who have been affected of the tragic loss of life and injuries following the **earthquake** in Turkey and Syria.
2. I pray for the families who have lost their loved ones ... and for the speedy recovery of the areas affected by the earthquake.

Excellencies,

3. This is my second Commissions meeting .. and I am delighted to be with all of you once again.
4. We appreciate the able leadership of Bangladesh.
5. I believe our collaboration last year was a progress ... considering that all of us were still experiencing the full impact of the pandemic.
6. I commend the Secretary General and his team for working tirelessly ... reaching out to potential partners and organizing tangible programs for our benefits.
7. Nonetheless .. challenges remain upon us.
8. The current state of our world is very worrying. The pandemic persists ... and global economy remains sluggish.
9. Crisis after crisis is unfolding: **climate change, rising inflation, food and energy shortages** ... as well as **political and military confrontation**.
10. That's why the new paradigm of **collaboration** must be the spirit of D8.
11. **A paradigm of collaboration ... not of competition.**
12. With all countries ... and more importantly, among us.

Excellencies,

13. Indonesia remains convinced ... **we need to focus on feasible and realistic collaboration** ... with high impact to our people.
14. First on **D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement**.
15. It was agreed that the cut-off-date for PTA was on October 31, 2022.
16. Indonesia has submitted all requirements for PTA .. and is ready to implement it.
17. I encourage other members to meet the PTA requirements ... as soon as possible.
18. International trade is among the few activities for economic recovery.
19. And in 2021 ... D-8 members accounted to 39,4% of intra-OIC merchandise exports.
20. Therefore ... there are plenty of opportunities for our intra-D-8 trade.
21. We thank the Secretariat and other D-8 members for attending the 12th meeting of D-8 Directors General for Civil Aviation last year in Bali.
22. The outcome of which, I believe, are beneficial for accelerating trade and connectivity among us.
23. Indonesia is also encouraged by the timely initiatives of the Secretariat in organizing collaboration with WTO and WIPO on trade issues ... and in convening private sectors meeting.
24. These initiatives further supports our capacity in implementing PTA.
25. Second on **shariah economies**,
26. I thank Malaysia for helping organize virtual meeting on creative economy in January this year ... which highlighted the opportunity of shariah economy for our development.
27. Spending in shariah-compliance products and services is expected to reach USD 2,8 trillion in 2025.
28. Our Decennial Road Map 2020-2030 has also included the collaboration on halal products, halal certification, and shariah tourism.
29. Needless to say, shariah economies fit into plenty of our existing collaboration such as on agriculture and food security, trade, investment, and tourism.
30. I encourage the Secretariat for convening virtual meetings dedicated to explore the potentials of shariah economies among D-8 members. To follow up the previous meeting in January.

Excellencies,

31. I hope that the D8 will band together and collaborate to overcome global issues and improve the economies of its members.

32. It is no longer the time to talk the talk.... Now is the time to walk the talk.

33. I thank you.

Wassalaamu'alaikum warrahmatullaahi wabarakatuh

Words: 610

Statement by
Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari
D-8 Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Iran
at
46th Session of the Commission of the D-8 Organization
Istanbul, 15-16 February 2023

Honorable Chair,

Honourable Secretary General,

Esteemed Fellow Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express our deep sorrow over the loss of so many lives and the heavy damages that our brotherly nations of Türkiye and Syria have endured as the result of the recent earthquake. We wish to extend our sincere condolences to the Republic of Türkiye and reiterate that, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a fellow D-8 member and also as a neighboring country continues to stand with its Turkish sisters and brothers by dispatching more aid and by continuing its participation in relief operations.

I should thank Secretary General Ambassador Imam and his team in the Secretariat for excellent arrangement for this session. My gratitude also goes our distinguished chair Commissioner Wahida Ahmed and the People's Republic of Bangladesh for excellent chairmanship of the Organization during the long and extended tenure. We welcome the new commissioners from Egypt and Pakistan Ambassador El-Etrebi and Ambassador and Ambassador Rabbani and wish them successful tenure. I

also wish all the best for the previous Commissioners from Egypt and Pakistan in their new careers.

We hope that this meeting can be another step towards making the D-8 a more efficient, more integrated, and more resilient Organization that serves the prosperity and well-being of all our nations. And we look forward to actively take part in the discussions with a view to positively contribute to the betterment of the Organization.

Dear Colleagues,

In this Commission meeting, as reflected in the Agenda, we have a lot on our plates. Amongst them is the discussion about possible enlargement of the Organization. As expressed in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that this is the time to expand the boundaries of our community in line with the Objectives and Principles of the Organization. We have already expressed our support to the membership application by the Republic of Azerbaijan. At the same time, we have been contributing into the development of well-defined criteria and modalities governing application for membership and observership.

As always, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains willing, ready, and determined to lend its utmost support to the objectives and activities of the Organization. In the same direction, we are planning to host some D-8 meetings, including ministerial level meetings, in areas such as SMEs, energy and ICT, etc.

Facilitation of trade among Member States, as reflected in the Charter, has always been at the top of the list of priorities of our Organization. However, the gap between what we have aspired to reach and

what we have achieved so far is huge. Yet, those objectives aren't out of reach: our potentials very much commensurate with our aspirations. We only need to act. And for that, effective implementation of Preferential Trade Agreements is an essential part. In this regard, it is imperative to hold the long-overdue meetings of Trade Ministers Council, as well as the Supervisory Committee.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Just recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran put forward a couple of new proposals with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the Organization and also to activate the existing potentials of our community of nations.

First, as conveyed to the Member States, this delegation has proposed a new idea of automatic rotation of the D-8 chairmanship; a very widely used method of fixed-term and alphabetic-based rotation. The current practice (holding the COM meeting as the hand-over time for chairmanship) is prone to delays and uncertainty and runs against the spirit of equal and equitable burden-sharing.

Second, out of a conviction that we need to utilize all untapped potentials of the Organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran has put forward a proposal to initiate a D-8 Parliamentary Assembly, or DPA. The very idea was first proposed by His Excellency Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian in July 2022 who stated that “the capacity of the parliaments of the Member States should be tapped for the purpose of developing and advancing our cooperation”. This delegation believes that making legislative bodies engaged will bring values for our cooperation within the Organization.

We encourage our fellow D-8 Member States to support these ideas and put forward their inputs to further enrich the proposals.

I thank you again.

**STATEMENT BY
MR. AHMAD KAMRIZAMIL MOHD RIZA
D-8 COMMISSIONER FOR MALAYSIA
AT THE 46TH D-8 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
ISTANBUL, TURKIYE
15 – 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

AGENDA 4: STATEMENT BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION (5 MINS)

**Ms. Wahida Ahmed
The Chair of the 46th D-8 Commission Meeting**

**His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary General of the D-8 Organisation for Economic
Cooperation**

Distinguished Commissioners,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and the D-8 Secretariat for hosting the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission.

2. Please allow me to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby, as the new D-8 Commissioner for The Arab Republic of Egypt. Ambassador Ragui's experiences in the domain of economy, having served at the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in various capacities, are remarkably impressive. I believe he has much to contribute to our Organisation.

3. I wish to also welcome Her Excellency Dr. Asima Rabbani, as the new D-8 Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Her leadership and experiences in training and research would be a tremendous advantage to Pakistan and D-8 as an organisation.

My fellow Commissioners,

The Earthquake Disaster in Turkiye

4. On behalf of the people and Government of Malaysia, I wish to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government and people of Turkiye and to the families of those who have lost loved ones in the recent series of massive earthquakes that hit southeast Turkiye on 6 February 2023.

5. In the face of this tragedy, we stand with the people of Turkiye and offer all possible assistance. As a brotherly country, we have extended humanitarian aid and financial assistance to assist the Turkiye government in dealing with the aftermath of this earthquake.

6. This disaster is a stark reminder of life's fragility and the need for us, especially the D-8 Member States, to unite and support one another in times of need.

My fellow Commissioners,

The Current Global Economic and Political Situations and Its Impacts on D-8

7. While we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the world faces challenging situations that exacerbate existing geopolitical tensions and economic instability.

8. On the political front, we are witnessing increased polarisation and division between nations and a rise in nationalist sentiments. It has resulted in heightened trade tensions and decreased cooperation on international issues, including climate change and economic stability.

9. The ongoing war definitely has a devastating impact on the global economy, causing disruption of global food supplies, widespread job losses and a sharp contraction in economic activities. In addition, it has

led to a decrease in global trade and investment and an increase in the public debt levels of many governments.

10. The D-8 Member States, in this context, are not immune to these concerning global developments. The political and economic instability in the world indeed has a significant impact on our economies and societies.

Full Implementation of the D-8 PTA

11. There is also an opportunity within us for the D-8 Member States to come together collectively and address these challenges. As we are all fully aware, we have been discussing and negotiating the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, or D-8 PTA, towards its full implementation since 2011.

12. This Agreement is a crucial tool for intra-trade growth that aims at increasing economic and trade activities between the D-8 Member States through tariff concessions and the elimination of non-tariff on a mutual basis. Furthermore, once fully implemented, this Agreement would propel our economies by encouraging more D-8-wide investment and improving rules and regulations concerning intellectual property, e-commerce and public procurement.

13. Malaysia believes that the Agreement must be finalised and fully implemented as soon as possible. Hence, Malaysia looks forward to the 7th Supervisory Committee on D-8 PTA Meeting and the 3rd Trade Ministers Council Meeting, scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2023, and hopes it will be operationalised accordingly.

My fellow Commissioners,

D-8 Secretariat's Budgets for 2023

14. As we know, the Commission has been discussing the Secretariat's budget for 2023 during its 45th Session in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2022 and during the Special Session virtually held in November last year. However, the discussions on both occasions could have been more fruitful.

15. While the different financial capacities of the Member States are understandable, we must acknowledge that the challenge to finalise the 2023 budget stems from the limited financial contribution from its Members. Apart from the growing cost of staff salaries and remuneration, the Secretariat also faces the challenge of filling vacant positions.

16. Therefore, Malaysia believes that strengthening the Secretariat is of utmost importance. Once the Secretariat operates at total capacity with the required talents, it can implement all initiatives, programmes and activities in line with our leaders' vision.

17. On this note, we believe that under His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka, the D-8 Secretariat, with a lean and dedicated team, will continue progressing effectively and efficiently.

18. We are confident that the Secretariat will continue to uphold the principles of good governance, especially in implementing programmes within the mandated financial allocation.

19. As an active member of the D-8, Malaysia supports any initiatives aimed at contributing to the overall performance and development of the D-8 economies.

Mdm. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Progress on Granting Observer Status and Permitting the Accession of New Members into the Organisation and the Membership Application by Azerbaijan

20. Malaysia firmly believes that expanding the D-8 membership would bring the Organisation to greater heights in line with the aspirations of our leaders as stipulated in the Dhaka Declaration 2021 and the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030. Hence, we should galvanise our efforts

to ensure a favourable outcome on this issue before our next Leaders' Summit.

21. While Malaysia believes specific standards must be adhered to when considering a new application for membership in the Organisation, our action must be seen as sincere in accepting application to expand our Organisation.

The D-8 Private Sector Initiatives

22. Malaysia acknowledges the importance of an enhanced engagement of the private sector in the organisation's activities: as the main engine for the growth of our economies.

23. On this note, as agreed during our 45th Session of the Commission, Malaysia hopes that work on the existing private initiatives, namely, the D-8 Payment Card; D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Centre, or D-8 CEFC; and D-8 Barter Trading System; be expedited.

24. Malaysia believes these initiatives would create more tangible and progressive results for the benefit of the businesses and further improve the socio-economic levels of our Members.

Conclusion

25. I look forward to a fruitful, productive and successful discussion in this Meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER TO THE D-8 AT
THE 46TH SESSION D-8 COMMISSION, ISTANBUL, TURKIYE,**

15-16 FEBRUARY 2023

Chairperson of D-8 Commission,

Your Excellencies and Honourable Commissioners,

Secretary-General of D-8 Organization

Ladies and Gentlemen

Permit me, at the outset, to join other colleagues, in expressing, on behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, heartfelt sympathies and deep condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan and Turkiye over the terror attack and earthquake, respectively, that led to loss of thousands of lives and property in both countries. We commiserate with the affected families over the loss of their loved ones and wish the injured, quick recovery. Nigeria stands with the two brotherly countries in this period of national mourning.

2. I would also like to convey my profound gratitude for the warm reception extended to Nigeria's delegation since our arrival in the beautiful and historical city of Istanbul. The Secretary General and the entire staff of the D-8 Secretariat also deserve commendation for the excellent arrangement put in place towards ensuring the success of the 46th session of the Commission.

3. We also wish to commend madam Chair for the way you chair our sessions and to assure you that we will continue to make your seat as comfortable as possible. We welcome our two newly appointed D-8 Commissioners of Egypt and Pakistan. We look forward to working closely with the newly appointed Commissioners in achieving the lofty objectives of the founding fathers of our organization.

4. Nigeria, as one of the founding members, is proud of the achievements recorded so far by the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Development and remains highly committed to continue playing its role in tandem with all relevant stakeholders towards the realization of the D-8's vision and objectives as engrained in the organization's charter.

Your Excellencies

Honourable Commissioners

5. The 46th Session of the D-8 Commission is taking place at a time when humanity is facing one of the most challenging periods in history, occasioned by the series of events which include COVID-19 Pandemic, ongoing Russian-Ukraine war, destructive climate change, unprecedented financial and economic crisis and natural disasters. This session therefore, provides a unique opportunity to reassess the progress and challenges confronting us as an organization.

6. In this regard, Member States need to reaffirm our shared determination and commitment to participate more actively in the activities of the organization. Our renewed effort in delivering a common future based on the commitment made by the founding fathers of this noble platform would ensure shared economic prosperity.

Madam Chairperson

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. The six priority areas of cooperation of the D-8 namely, Trade, Agriculture and Food Security, Industrial, Energy, Transport and Tourism Cooperation would continue to receive deserving attention of the relevant authorities in Nigeria due to their relevance to our national development aspirations, and our commitment to the D-8.

Nigeria, therefore, regards the D-8 as an important platform for economic cooperation and a unique vehicle for South-South and Tri-angular cooperation.

8. As part of our commitment to the lofty ideals of the D-8, Nigeria has initiated and implemented a number of programmes and initiatives at the national level as contributions to enhance cooperation within the organization. These projects include:

i) the designation of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja as one of the D-8 partner airports that will provide fast services to citizens of D-8 Member States;

ii) Nigeria hosted the first D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Market in Abuja, in October 2022;

iii) As a follow up to the success of the forum, Nigeria has submitted a Proposal to host D-8 Center on SMEs in Abuja. Administrative and other logistics arrangement are being put in place by the relevant Nigerian authorities to ensure the smooth take-off of the Center in 2024; and

vi) Nigeria is proposing to host the first D-8 Energy Forum in Abuja in 2023. The forum is designed to bring together critical stakeholders in the energy sector to deliberate on how to revamp the sector within the D-8 region and explore available opportunities for industrial development. We are looking forward to receiving participants from D-8 Member States in Abuja for this event;

9. On the agenda items, Nigeria is ready to engage. We are hopeful that we will arrive at amicable solutions to some of the items that are becoming protracted, especially the budget.

Madam Chair,

10. To achieve the set objectives of our organization, there is the need for Member States to show more commitment to the activities of the D-8, including the implementation of the Decisions and Agreements reached in the past. Let me also underscore the importance of active intra-D8 trade and the need to remove barriers including strict visa regime among Member States in order to boost trade and commercial engagements.

11. Permit me to conclude by placing on record giant strides being recorded by the Secretariat in recent time, especially in the areas of external relations and trade as evidenced in the numerous meetings and productive engagements recorded. We want to urge the Secretariat not to rest in its oars in this regard.

12. I thank you all for your attention.

**Statement of the D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan for the 46th Session
of the D-8 Commission (15-16 Feb 2023)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me offer my country's deepest condolences for the loss of life and property resulting from the devastating earth quake that struck our brotherly country of Turkiye last week.

Pakistan stands in firm solidarity with Turkiye in the wake of this unprecedented natural calamity. Our leadership has already pledged all possible support in the relief effort. We have mobilized all available resources including winterized tents, blankets and other critical life-saving supplies. Our Urban Search and Rescue Teams trained to operate in disaster hit areas are working on ground in tandem with our Turkish brethren.

We pray to Allah Almighty for forgiveness and mercy of all those who had lost their lives in this catastrophic event.

Excellencies,

It is a personal pleasure to be here in Istanbul. Let me also offer our gratitude to the D-8 Secretary General and his team for making excellent arrangements for the meeting.

I would also like to extend our thanks to Bangladesh in steering the work of the D-8, as the Chair, during these turbulent times.

We assure the D-8 Secretary General, H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Pakistan's strong and firm support for all his efforts to strengthen this organization.

I note his emphasis on trade and visibility of the organization, as some of his core priorities. I commend him for making these as his priorities and look forward to hearing actual results from this effort in near future.

Excellencies,

Allow me to commence by briefly reflecting on the context of our work today.

There has never been a time when the world was free of a major crisis. At present though, there is a confluence of a series of cascading crises from post pandemic recovery, war and conflicts, to rising polarization within societies and climate change. Unfolding of cost-of-living crisis, rising inequality, looming recession, energy crunch, soaring inflation and supply chain disruptions are some ingredients for a “perfect storm”.

Post-pandemic economic recovery is slow, uneven and unequal. A few months ago, we were worried that the world is trading and growth is declining under the weight of war against disease as well as unfolding trade and technology wars. Today they are creaking under the full weight of an actual military conflict.

Instability is being engendered by rising geopolitical tensions and global economic volatility. Power shifts continue in an increasingly fragmented international system, with multilateralism under growing stress.

Inevitably, economies of the Developing countries are worst hit.

Amid these crises, our platform could be a place for exploring opportunities and while integrating the negative impacts of the crises we all face. International cooperation and more so enhanced D-8 cooperation is of paramount importance.

Excellencies,

Before I reflect on some of the issues requiring our attention, as part of the agreed agenda, I would like to highlight three important opportunities for our consideration, both at this meeting and in the future.

First, Private sector: I cannot emphasize the important role that the private sector can and must. There is an immense opportunity in engaging the private sector. Our modest progress suggests that a key element of economic cooperation is missing. It is time to explore this opportunity and bring together private sector. I propose that a private sector facility/platform be created to help us determine next step in promoting economic cooperation within the D8.

Second: enhancing connectivity: as a cross regional group of large developing countries, enhancing connectivity is perhaps the most significant challenge we face. We don't and at least in the near future, we cannot have road networks operating amongst us. The two major lines of connectivity are technological and travel and transportation links. Unless we focus on connectivity, we will not be able to accrue the benefit of any of our work. We should consider launching a D8 technological and transportation connectivity roadmap, that focuses on reducing cost of communication, transportation and travel within the D8 countries.

Let me now revert to some of the issues on the agenda.

Decennial Roadmap of 2020-30 provides a framework for increased economic cooperation and partnership. To implement the goals and objectives laid down in Decennial Roadmap, I would like to raise few specific points:

One, the D-8 PTA is very essential to realise the full potential of sectoral cooperation and trade between D-8 member states. Pakistan is committed to the full implementation of the D-8 PTA. But we believe that more than its implementation in the current state, there is a need to revise the offer list / tariff lines in order to realise the true potential of intra-D8 trade. This would also be in line with the target set against the preparatory phase of Decennial Roadmap for 2020-30. We hope that discussions on this issue will conclude soon so as to fully implement the PTA.

Two, the emerging economies of the D-8 member states have huge markets that can attract international investments. However, investment regimes, today, are part of the trade agreement. Therefore, we propose to include D-8 Investment Agreement in the D-8 PTA and would like the negotiations to kick off at the earliest.

Three, it is time, we invigorate all our efforts in the optimal utility of our human resource development, diversification of national economies, developing markets, nurturing our value chains especially agro-business value chains and creating linkages for trade, creating backward linkages and boosting technological transfer, reinvigorate services sectors¹ and our capacity to provide a common voice of the Global South.

¹ As of 2019, service sectors average 50% of the D-8 national economies. Egypt and Turkiye have surplus.

Four, we fully endorse the idea of D-8 Payment Card. We believe that the realisation of this concept can be mutually beneficial for all Member States. We have already shared our detailed views on the subject. We would propose that the Secretariat may Commission a study to come up with a way forward while anticipating the challenges that we may face. To move forward, a dedicated team comprised of representatives from Payment Systems Department of Central Banks of all D-8 countries may be formed to materialize the concept as well as implementation plan.

Five, finances play a critical role in the working of any intergovernmental organisation. The Member States have been making annual contribution on the basis of their relative GDP standing. However, over the past two decades, there has been change in their relative GDP standings. Therefore, we believe that there is a need to revise the formula of annual contribution by the Member States. The contribution, we propose, may be based on biennial GDP statistics of member states.

Six, Pakistan welcomes the desire of the Republic of Azerbaijan to become a D-8 as a member. We, once again, fully support Azerbaijan's joining to the D-8 Organization. The expansion of the membership by welcoming friendly countries, with shared objectives and emerging economic, will enhance the avenues for economic cooperation. This will have a net positive impact on the intra-D8 trade, and the economic health of the member states. We hope that we will be able to take the decision during the proceedings of agenda of the D-8 Session of the Commission.

Excellencies,

On its part, Pakistan is committed to promoting economic growth, trade and development through cooperation and assistance with all members of the Developing – 8.

Pakistan has ratified five out of six D-8 Legal Instruments and is committed to implement them in letter and spirit. Ratification process from Pakistan on the D-8 MoU on SMEs Governmental Bodies is under process. All codal formalities have been completed and it is expected that we will ratify the agreement during the year 2023.

We are committed to convening the 3rd D-8 Ministerial meeting on Tourism. Besides we are ready to hold inaugural meeting of the D-8 Research Centre at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, and the meeting of D-8

Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (NPRI) at COMSATS University Islamabad during the month of March 2023.

Excellencies,

Last year we are celebrated the silver jubilee of the establishment of the D-8. While the pace of this organization has been modest, D-8 has all the ingredients to become a role model for the cooperation entities.

With joint cooperation and partnership, I hope we will be able to realize the vision and objectives of the D-8 organization.

I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and positive engagement during the proceedings of the Session of the Commission.

Thank you.

Statement made by H.E. Ambassador Esen Altuğ at the 46th Session of D-8 Commission

**Madame Chair,
Mr. Secretary General,**

Distinguished Commissioners,

We have gathered in İstanbul for the 46th session of the D-8 Commission just after 10 days from the greatest natural disaster in our history. On 6th February, two strong earthquakes with magnitudes 7.8 and 7.6 hit the southern regions of Türkiye and northern Syria. The earthquakes strongly affected 10 provinces and almost 15 million people. I would like to thank you all for your messages of condolences and solidarity. We welcome the call on made by the Secretariat to the D8 members to demonstrate solidarity for disaster relief and recovery.

Our distinguished Secretary General kindly asked me whether we wish to postpone this meeting. Nation-wide disaster management and relief works are continuing with the generous assistance of many countries from all around the world and the situation is under control, so we didn't want to postpone this important meeting for our organization.

I would like express our gratitude to the Bangladesh Chairmanship and to the Secretariat for the successful organization of this meeting.

We have important items on our agenda. I wish to have a fruitful Commission meeting with substantial results. I hope that we will take important decisions for the benefit of our organization and for the further enhancement of our cooperation.

First and foremost, we need to finalize the 2023 budget and increase the staff strength of the Secretariat as we agreed upon at the 45th Commission meeting in Dhaka.

Dear colleagues,

The expansion of our Organization through the creation of new partnerships as well as the accession of new members and observers would strengthen our efforts to that end. That is why the membership application of the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the most important items of our agenda.

Azerbaijan is a brotherly country to all of us. More than that, Azerbaijan is an exemplary developing country, which meets all the membership criteria mentioned in the D-8 Charter and which possesses a huge potential in many areas of work of the D-8 and can make significant contributions to our organization.

We do not need to wait to respond to Azerbaijan's application until we make changes to our Charter regarding the membership applications. We can and we should immediately process the existing application, which was made 9 months ago.

Before concluding my words, I would like to thank you once again for the solidarity shown after the earthquake disaster.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to welcome new Commissioners from Egypt and Pakistan.

I wish you all a successful Commission meeting.

Thank you.

Proposed Changes in Statutory Documents

Note: This document highlights the following proposed changes:

Staff Regulations

Chapter I

Definitions

Article 2 page 37-38

For the purpose of these Regulations, certain terms used are defined as follows:

a) D-8

Developing 8 Countries.

b) Secretariat

The Secretariat of Developing-8 Countries, which is situated in Istanbul, Turkey.

c) Member Countries

States which are members of the D-8 and contribute to the budget and activities of the Secretariat.

d) Summit

The meeting of the heads of state / government of the D-8 countries.

e) Council of Ministers

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the D-8.

f) Commission

The Commissioners Meeting of the D-8.

g) Secretary General

The Secretary General of the D-8.

i) Staff

Personnel of the Secretariat of the D-8 whose emoluments are charged against the Secretariat and are recruited on the basis of the D-8 Staff Regulations.

j) Chairman in Office

The rotating chairman of the D-8 Summit, Council of Ministers and Commission.

k) Local Staff

Staff not included in I and II categories recruited by the Secretariat on the basis of present Regulations.

l) Temporary Staff

Staff either directly recruited or seconded by Member Countries or other international organizations whose services are engaged on temporary basis by the Secretariat for special short - term assignment.

m) Headquarters Agreement

The Agreement regarding the legal status of the Secretariat signed with the government of the Republic of Turkey.

Staff Regulations

Chapter IV

Classification of Posts, Staff Strength and Job Description

Article 5 page 41

5.1 The initial sanctioned staff strength of the Secretariat for the next 5 years shall be based on the table provided in Annex I. The staff strength shall be reviewed and revised from time to time by the Council of Ministers.

Annex I

5.2 The staff of the Secretariat including the Secretary General shall consist of the following four categories, each category shall be further sub divided in Grades:

- a) Category – I (Directing Staff): D3, D2, D1
- b) Category –II (Professional Staff): P3, P2, P1
- c) Category –III (Local - Administrative and Technical Staff): A3, A2, A1
- d) Category –IV (Local - Service Staff): S1, S2

Chapter V

Article 9 page 42

9.1 Appointment to other posts in Categories I and II shall be made by the Commission on the basis of alphabetical rotation for a non-renewable term of four years.

These posts shall be advertised by the Secretariat through Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries, six months before the expiration of the post, specifying the requisite qualifications and experience for each post as prescribed in Annex-II.

Composition of staffs in Category I & Category-II shall not be comprised of officials from the same nationality.

Article 10 page 43

10.1 Appointment to Category-III posts shall be made by the Secretary General according to the needs of the Secretariat through a proper selection procedure on the basis of the requisite qualification and experience for each post as prescribed in Annex-II. The terms and conditions of appointment to these posts shall be specified in the relevant contract to be signed by the Secretary General. All local staff under Category-III, and Category-IV shall not enjoy diplomatic immunity and be governed in accordance with Turkish Labour Law and Social Security System.

Article 13 page 44

The Salaries and allowances of local staffs will be paid as approved by the Commission.²

Health Insurance

Education Grant page

Article 17 page 45

17.1 Education grant is an expatriate benefit which is payable to directing, and professional staff members, unless they are permanent residents or nationals of the host country of the Secretariat, in respect of 2 (two) dependant child's educational expenses. It is provided to directing staff members who reside and serve at a duty outside his or her home country with an appointment of a minimum period of one year.

Airfare and Transportation Allowance

Article 18 page 45-46

18.3 Transportation of Personal Effects: Directing and Professional staff will be entitled to transportation and personnel effects allowance upon joining and departure. Upon departure, an officer will only be eligible for transportation of personal effects given that he/she has completed two years at the Secretariat.

18.4 Home Leave Passage³: Directing and Professional staff who serve for a period of at least 2 years at the Secretariat, will be entitled to get home leave passage for family members (spouse and maximum two ~~four~~ children aged not more than 18 years) from the Secretariat once in their entire tenure.

18.5 Emergency Passage⁴: All Expatriate Staff of the Secretariat will be entitled to get emergency passage ~~for family members~~ (maximum two air tickets) from the Secretariat twice/once in their entire tenure.

² In accordance with Turkish Labour Law (Article-11), Employment Contracts are not needed to be signed on yearly basis, except for temporary contracts.

³Home leave passage: Allowance offers to visit their country of residence along with family members.

⁴Travel allowance granted to an officer in case of unforeseen demise/emergency in family, usually availed in case of death of spouse, child, parents and parents-in-laws or siblings.

Annex I page 50
Staff Strength of the D-8 Secretariat

Title of Post	Category and Grade	No. of Post Required	Term
Secretary-General	I-D3	1	4 years
Director-I	I-D2	1	4 years
Assistant Director	I-D1	1	4 years
Director-II	I-D1	1	4 years
Program Officer	II-P3	2	4 years
Executive Assistant	III-A3	3	On Contract Basis
Media and Protocol Assistant	III-A2	1	On Contract Basis
Professional Accountant	III-A2	1	On Contract Basis
ICT Assistant	III-A2	1	On Contract Basis
Secretary	III-A1	1	On Contract Basis
Personal Secretary	III- A1	1	On Contract Basis
Driver	IV-S2	1	On Contract Basis
Office Boy	IV-S1	1	On Contract Basis

Financial Regulations

Chapter II

Article 6 page 62

6.1 If the Commission is unable to meet or adopt the budget before the beginning of the new financial year, the Secretary General shall be authorized to make payments **from the General Reserve Fund** to sustain Secretariat's essential functioning on provisional basis for a maximum period of three months on the basis of the budget approved for the previous financial year.

Application of the Budget, Internal and External Controls

Article 10 page 63

The Financial accounts of the Secretariat shall be subject to an external auditing on biannual basis. The audit team **may visit the Secretariat for a period of one week, and** may comprise the designated auditors of the **host country and current and future-chair (if the host country is chairing the Organization, then the audit team will comprise the designated auditors of the host country and future Chair)**. The expenses of such auditing shall be borne by the sending Member Countries.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF THE AFFILIATED BODIES

Malaysia's Input:

1. Malaysia commends the effort of the D-8 TTEN Secretariat in proposing the D-8 Charter and the Organisation Chart.
2. However, Malaysia wishes to highlight that the proposal should be discussed at the High Council Meeting (HCM) of the D-8 TTEN before tabling it to the D-8 Commission.
3. Nonetheless, Malaysia would like to highlight several important issues on the proposed Charter:
 - a. On Article 6 of the Charter, it is important to note that the Member States thus far have never committed to constantly provide financial grants, or pay any fees to the D-8 TTEN Secretariat;
 - b. On the final paragraph of the Charter, the D-8 TTEN Secretariat did not attach together the documents containing the preamble, 12 articles, 4 notes, and 8 appendices with the proposed Charter for Member States' reference; and
 - c. The final paragraph also mentioned that "*...the proposed Charter will enter into force on the date of approval and notification of the D-8 Secretary-General*". Malaysia wishes to highlight that the virtual Meeting held on 19 December 2022 was a pre-council Meeting for the 7th D8-TTEN HCM, which was also attended by the officials from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Moreover, there was no agenda set and also any discussion on the proposed governing structure and Charter of the D-8 TTEN during the pre-council Meeting.
4. Next, on the proposed Organisation Chart, Malaysia seeks clarification on the following:
 - a. The duties and responsibilities of each position proposed in the Organisation Chart;
 - b. Clear action plans for each of the Section proposed in the Organisation Chart;
 - c. Short-term and long-term Key Performance Index (KPI) of the D-8 TTEN;

- d. Details on Staffing (including qualifications, citizenship, tenure, salary scale, and participation from the Member States); and
- e. Commitments from the Member States.

D 8 Special Economic Zone

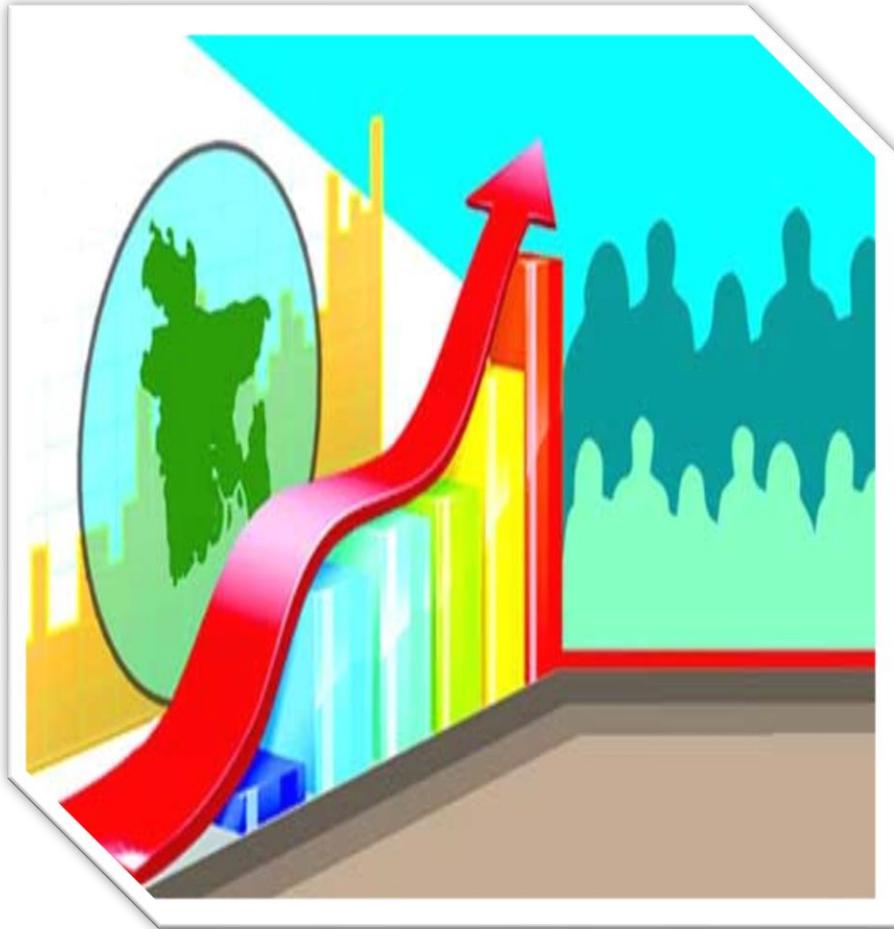


D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Bangladesh has expressed willingness to establish **SEZ** for D8 members



Bangladesh at a Glance



Index	Quantity
Population	Around 168 million (8 th most populous)
Literacy rate	72.76%
Life expectancy	72.49 years
Total GDP	465 billion USD
GDP per capita	2723 USD
Foreign reserve	38 billion USD
Economic growth	7.25% in fiscal 2021-22

How does the World assess Bangladesh?

BANGLADESH "A RAPIDLY INDUSTRIALIZING ECONOMY"

“Bangladesh the Next China”
McKinsey & Company

“Bangladesh is the fastest growing
economy in the Asia-Pacific region”
ADB

“Bangladesh one of the Frontier 5
economies”
J.P.Morgan

“The Next Eleven” Bangladesh
among the 11 nations, have high
economic potential”
**Goldman
Sachs**



“Bangladesh marked the highest
proportion (73.2%) of expansion
as the future business plan for
Japanese firms in next 1-2 years.”
JETRO

Bangladesh Is Becoming South
Asia’s Economic Bull Case
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

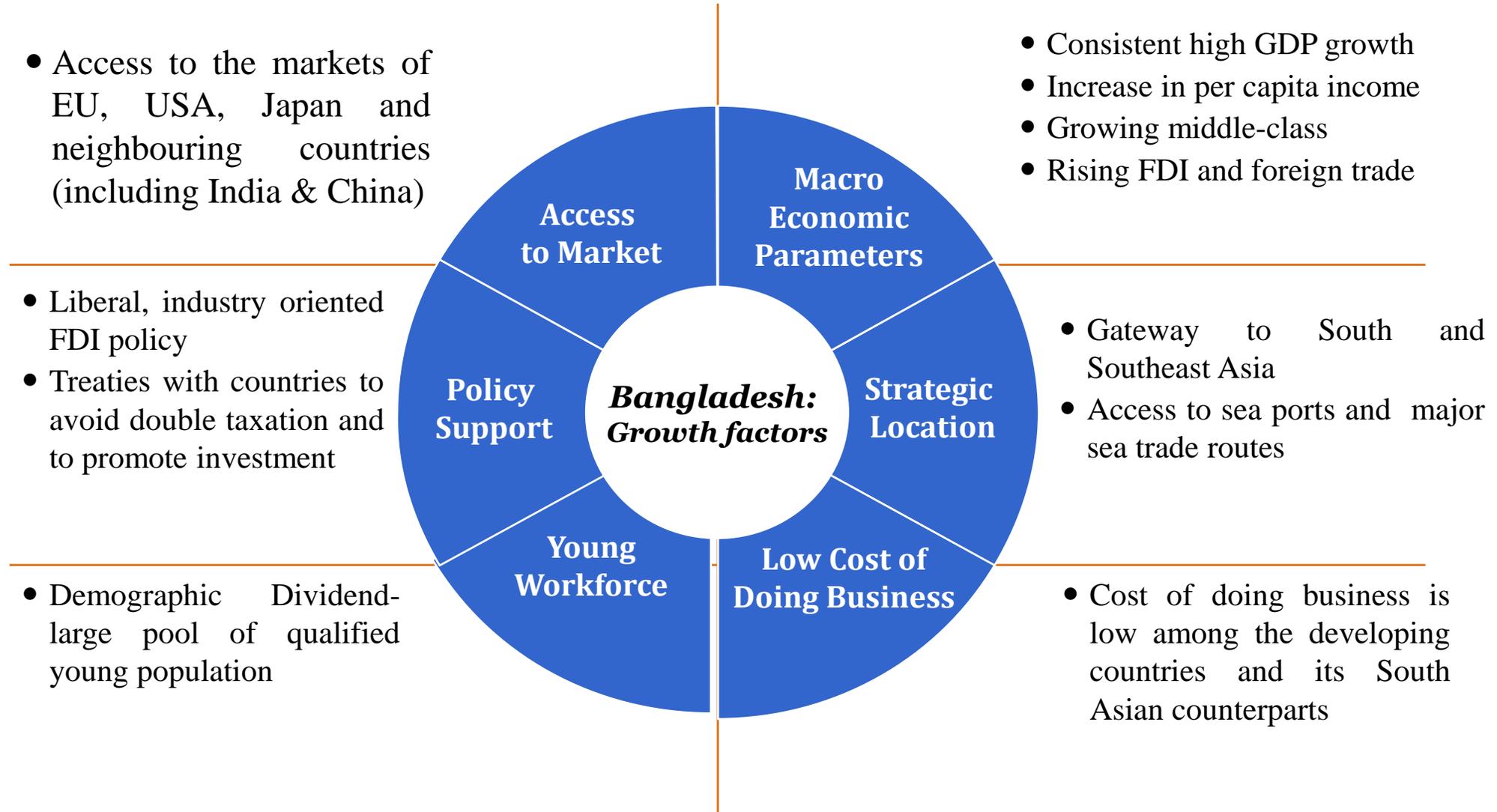
Bangladesh is 9th Emerging
Stable Economy among 66
countries
**The
Economist**

“28th & 23rd largest economy of World
by 2030 & by 2041”
PWC

“Bangladesh will be the 12th economic
power of the world in 2050”
UBS

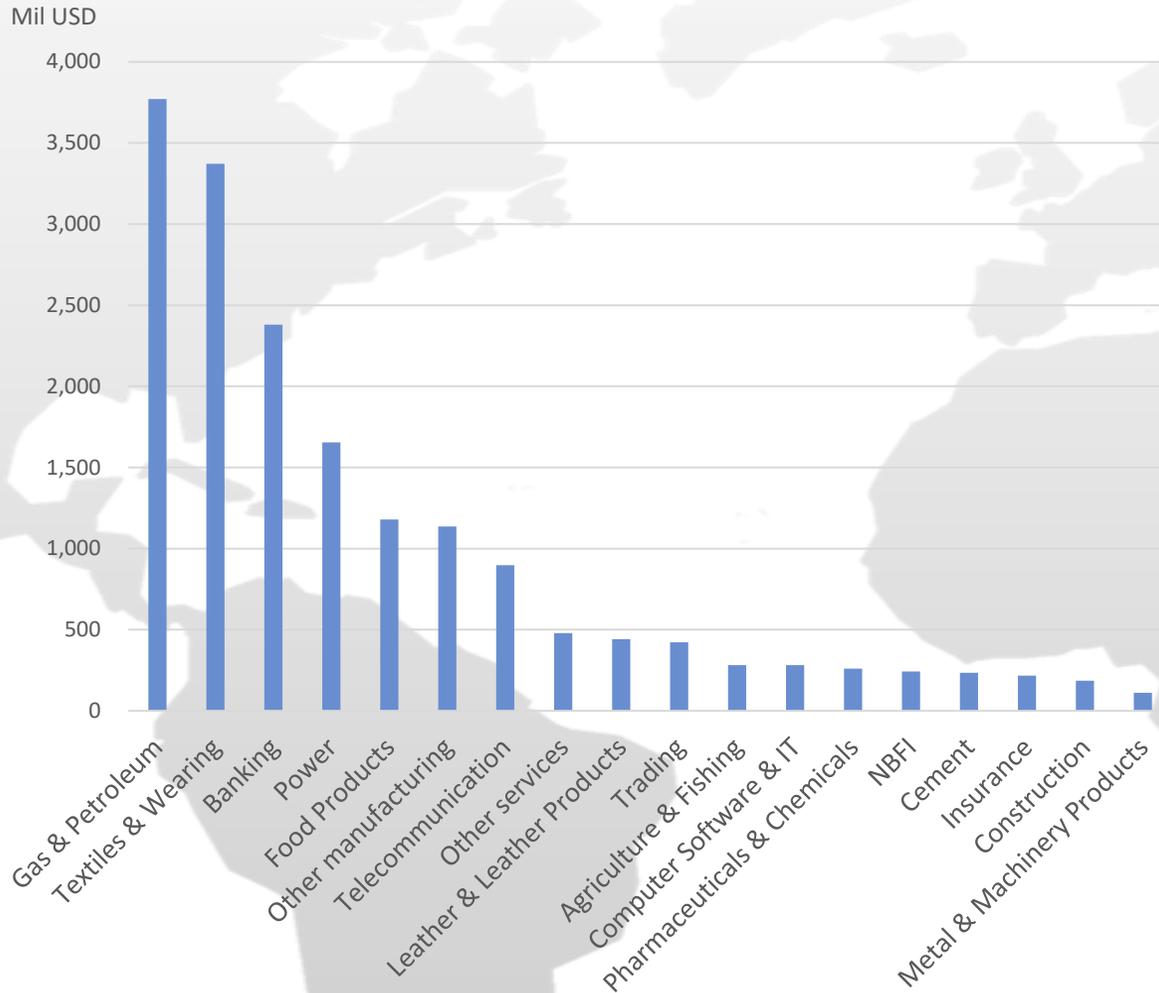
Bangladesh 2nd fastest growing
economy in South Asia
THE WORLD BANK

Growth Factors of Bangladesh

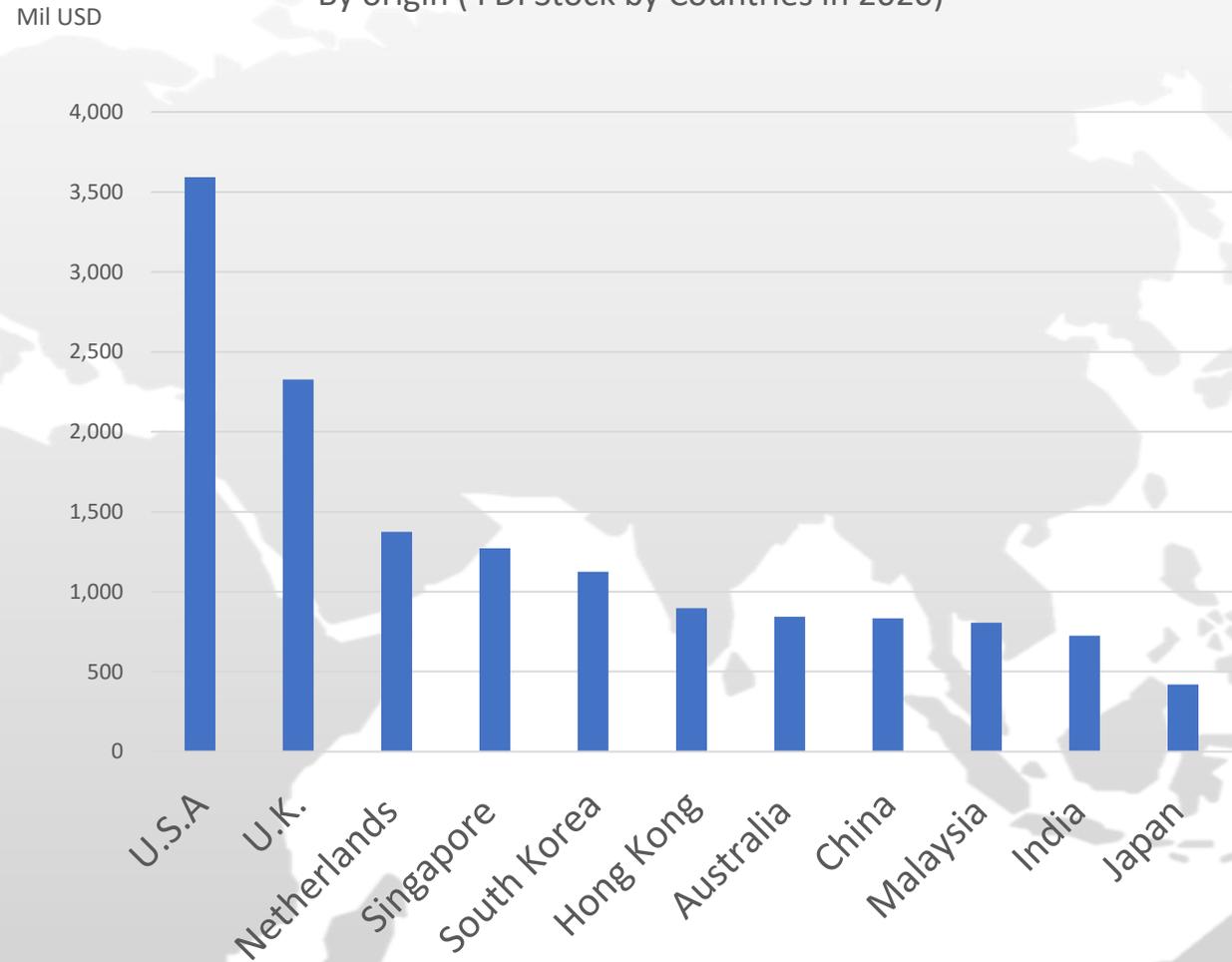


FDI Sources and Sectors

By sector (FDI stock by sectors as of 2020)



By origin (FDI Stock by Countries in 2020)



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Promoted Sectors for Investment...

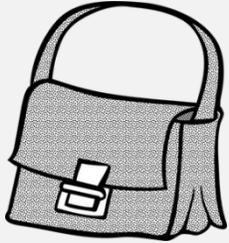
1



Readymade garments

- Manufacture of high-end apparel items, clothing accessories, fabrics/yarns, and natural and synthetic fibers.
- Bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing service

2



Leather

- Manufacture of export-oriented leather products
- Tanning and leather-finishing service
- Design and product development service

3



Pharmaceutical API and medical Equipment/ Devices

- Manufacture of generic, patented drugs for export, import-dependent drugs, API molecules and excipients.
- Development of bioequivalence test facility

4

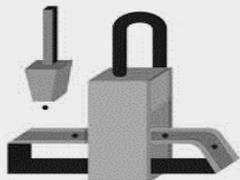


Software & IT-enabled Service

- Offshore development hub and captive BPO centers (inc. call centers).
- High value-added ITES-BPO service
- High value software development
- Digital technology-based service

...Promoted Sectors for Investment

5



Agro/ Food Processing

- Manufacture of processed foods, vegetable/ fruit product (locally available).
- Manufacture of milk, dairy products, edible oil, etc.

6



Agricultural Tools and Machinery

- Manufacture of agricultural tools and machinery
- Development or upgrading of cold chain facility

7



Electrical and Electronic Products including Parts

- Assembly of import-dependent electrical/electronic product
- Parts/equipment used for electric/electronic products

8



Automobile

- Assembly of passenger automobiles and manufacture of parts and components for automobiles
- Service for parts forming and treatment, vehicle maintenance and repair.

9



Ship-building

- Development or expansion of shipyard
- Service of vessel maintenance
- Manufacture of parts and components.

BEZA's MISSION

Sites Approved **97** Zones
Commercial operation **10** Zones
Under Construction **30** Zones



100

Setting up 100
Economic Zones
across the country
by 2041



10M

Generating direct &
indirect employment
for 10 million people



\$40B

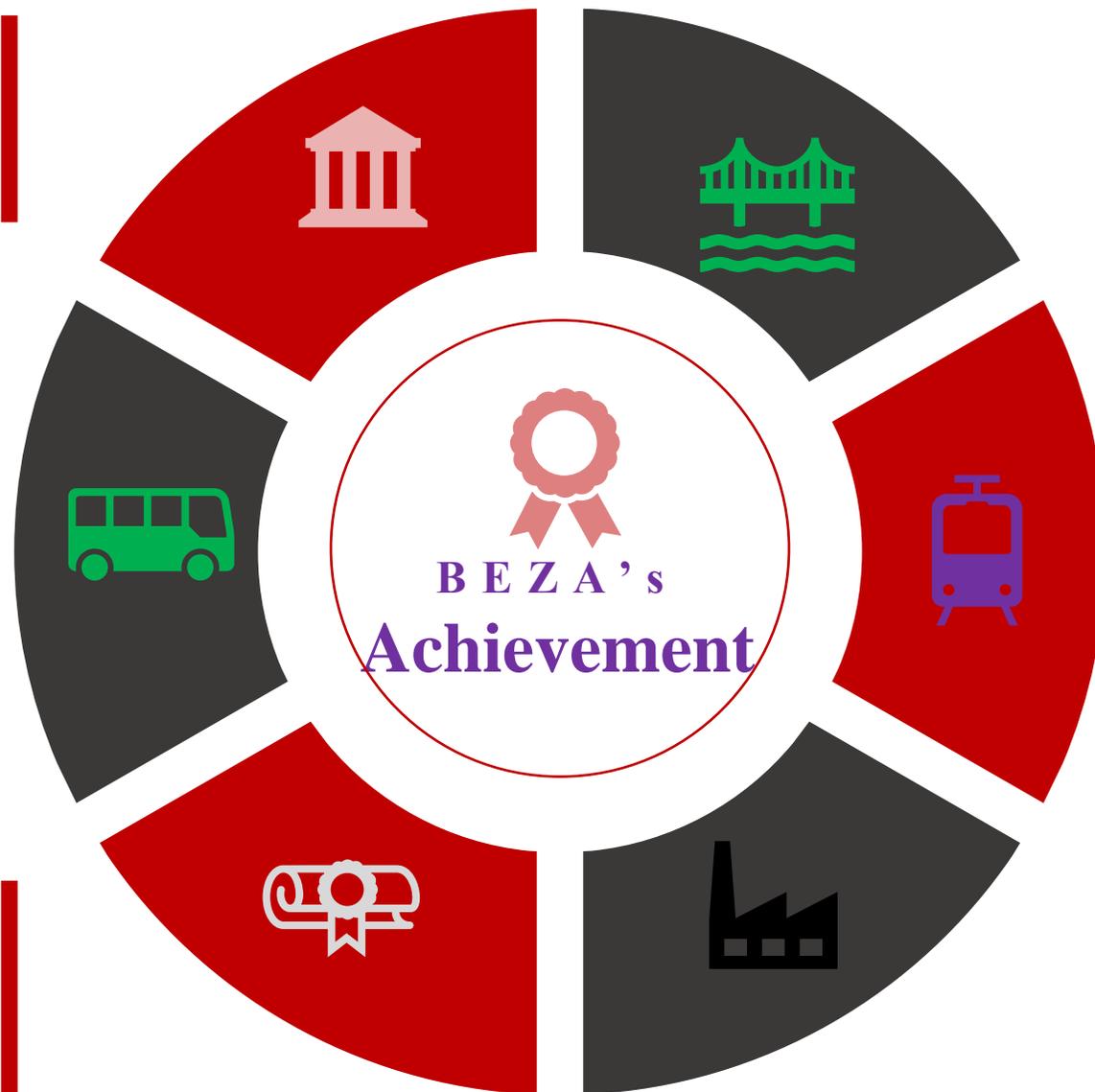
Export /
Production to the
tune of 40 billion
USD



Delivering 125 types of services through One Stop Service Centre of which 48 are being delivered online.
25000+ services delivered

29 industrial Units are running their production in EZs and 39 units are in construction stage

Land Bank of 61,000+ Acres. 185 Investors have already been allocated 6625 Acres of land



Winning trust of the Investors

Investment proposals worth 27 Billion USD which are expected to generate 1 Million Employment

Approved 97 Economic Zones, of which 10 are already in production and 30 are under construction

WHY

Economic Zones

Adequate
Land

Uninterrupted
Utility Connection

Incentives
Fiscal & Non fiscal

Infrastructure
State-of-the art

Market
Both domestic & International

NONFISCAL INCENTIVES



Scan this code to
get the details



BOND FACILITIES



Duty free import & export of
raw materials

EASY CUSTOMS



Separate procedures for
customs in EZs

TELEPHONIC TRANSFER



No limit of TT

REMITTING REVENUE EARNED IN BDT



Local Currency to
Foreign Currency

SENDING OF DIVIDEND/PROFIT



100% profit allowed to
send home

REPATRIATION OF DISINVESTMENT



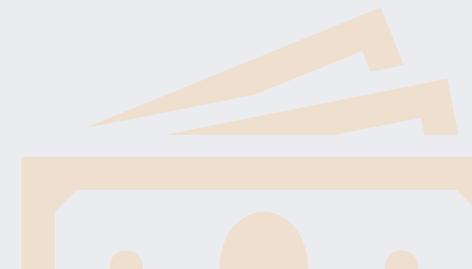
100% allowed

SENDING OTHER FEES



Need no permission upto 6%
turnover

Unique
in EZs



FISCAL

INCENTIVES



Scan this code to
get the details



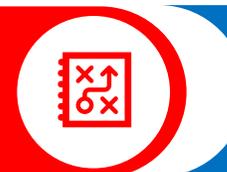
Zone Developer

INCOME TAX



100% off: 1st 10 years
70%-30% off: 11th - 12th year

DIVIDEND TAX



No tax: 10 years

CAPITAL GAIN TAX



No tax: 10 years

ROYALTY, TECH.
KNOW-HOW etc.



No tax: 10 Years

INCOME OF FOREIGN
WORKER



No tax: 3 years

DUTY FREE IMPORT



No duty: Goods related to
Zone Development

One Stop Service

How it works?



ONLINE SERVICE

Service through Online Portal



STIPULATED TIME

Legal obligation to provide timely service



COORDINATION

29 Service Providing Agencies Under one Roof



FOCAL POINT

32 Focal Points of different agencies



Standard Operating Procedure

Service mapping, required documents, legal basis of the services are made available online

One Stop Service

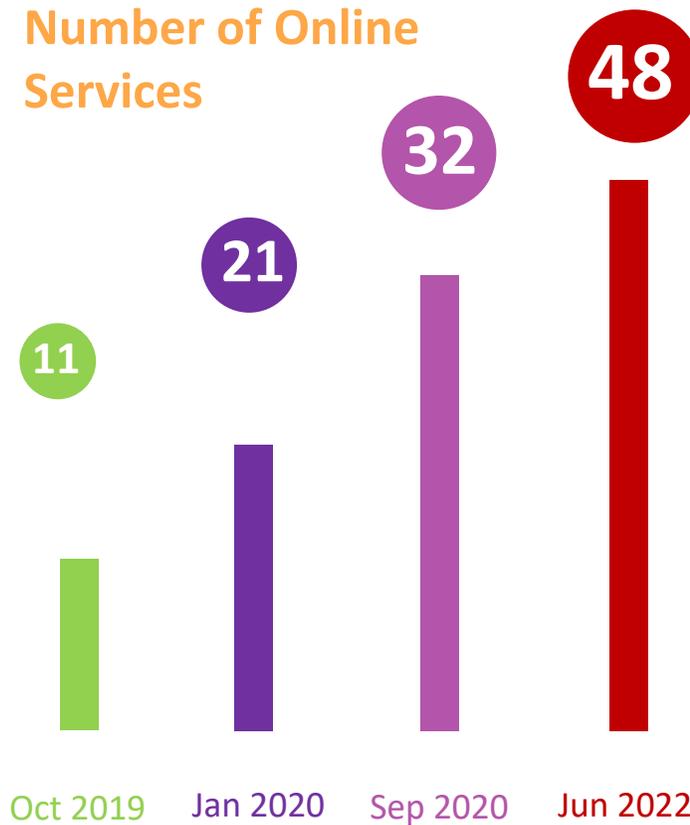
How it works?



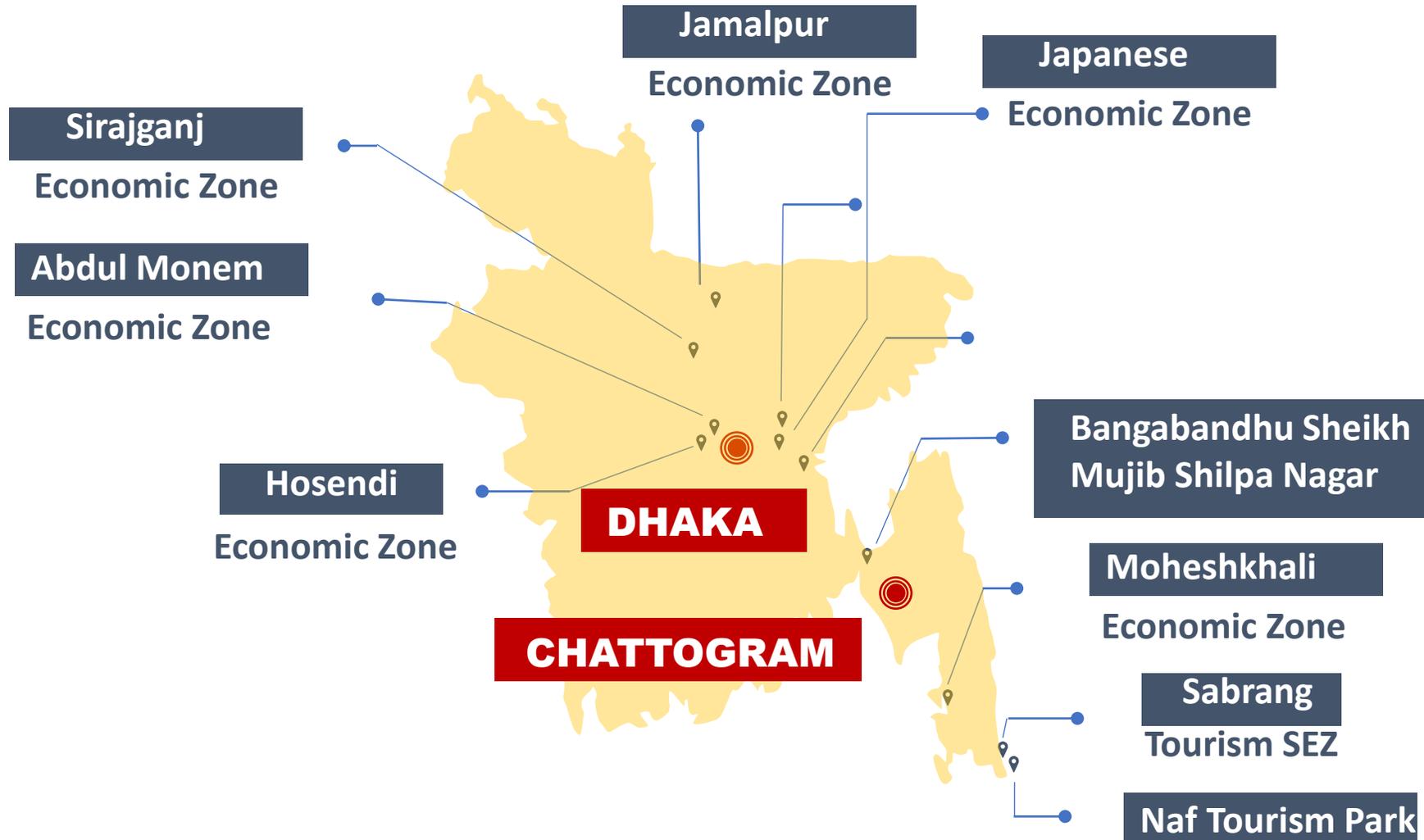
ONLINE SERVICE

Service through Online
Portal

- No need to be present physically
- Online Payment
- No duplicate submission of Document



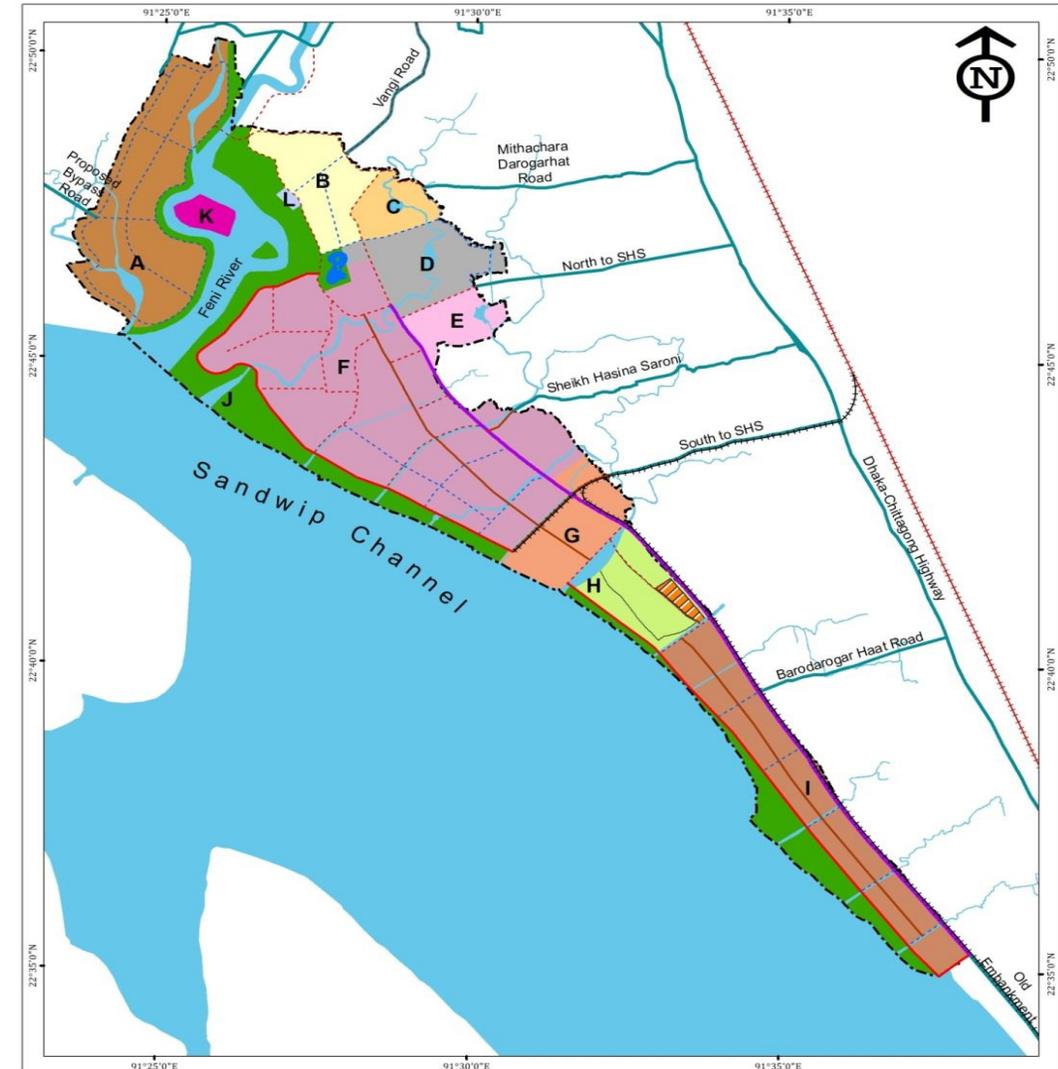
Investors are cordially invited...



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar

Master Plan

Precinct	Name	Size in Acres	Size in %
A	Residential/Supporting Amenities	4606.57	13.63
B	City Centre/Technology Hub	1682.91	4.98
C	Health and Education Centre	837.35	2.48
D	Mixed Use/Residential	1778.59	5.26
E	Administrative/Institutional	880.68	2.61
F	Light and Medium Industrial	10043.12	29.71
G	Port and Logistics	1802.29	5.33
H	Transitional	1778.75	5.26
I	Heavy Industrial	3956.35	11.70
J	Open Space	6030.42	17.84
K	Leisure and Entertainment	350.89	1.04
L	Cultural Center	56.85	0.17
Total Area		33804.76	100.00



Super Dyke

BEZA & Water Board

22.5 KM



230 KVA Grid Sub Station

P G C B



150 MW Power Plant

BR Powergen



Sheikh Hasina Avenue

R & H

10 Km long 4 Lane Highway

Gas Pipeline

17 Km
1 CGS 2 DRS





Administrative Building

Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority

Notable Investors



Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority

Notable Investors



Hiranandani
creating better communities



Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority

Development Partners





Thank You

www.beza.gov.bd



**Report:
Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN)**

**Ms. Wahida Ahmed
The Chair of the 46th D-8 Commission Meeting**

**His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam Secretary
General of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation**

**Distinguished Commissioners,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and the D-8 Secretariat for hosting the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission and I express my gratitude for inviting us as D-8 affiliated bodies to the meeting.

On behalf of D8 TTEN secretariat, I wish to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Turkiye and to the families of those who have lost loved ones in the recent series of massive earthquakes that hit southeast Turkiye on 6 February 2023.

Distinguished Commissioners,

D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN) is an international network to develop technology cooperation among the Eight Developing Muslim States including Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. It will fulfill as a platform in technology arena to launch technology cooperation among Member

States such as technology transfer and hi-tech products market, capacity building and information dissemination on technological capabilities, achievements, organize technology transactions, and create coordination and synergism among Member States. Various instruments are enacted to boost Technology-Business atmosphere from which are databank of requests and offers, support to participate in exhibitions, workshops, Business meetings, investment opportunities and etc.

D-8 TTEN is a platform for technologists in D-8 Member States to boost and manage all kinds of technology cooperation aimed at provision of governments, industries, Science and Technology Parks, technology companies, innovators and activists in technology management in countries to fulfil their needs and offer capabilities to each other.

Distinguished Commissioners,

Let me inform you regard Main Activities of D-8 TTEN in 2022:

- 1) The 4th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM2022) in Tehran, Iran with 10.6 Million Dollar investment contracts (Feb. 2022);
- 2) D-8 Pavilion in 11th INOTEX (international innovation and technology exhibition), Tehran, Iran with participant of Malesia, Turkey, Iran and D-8 secretariat (May 2022)
- 3) Visit of excellency D-8 Secretary General from the D-8 TTEN secretariat located in Pardis Technology Park (June 2022);
- 4) Planned to organize Business & Technology Meeting in Pakistan based on the decision in 6th HCM (unfortunately Pakistan did not accept to organize physical BTM)
- 5) Re-planned to organize BTM in Dhaka, Bangladesh based on Bangladesh focal point's suggestion (They didn't prepare for 2022)
- 6) Rewarding the best technology transfer contract entitled "3rd Technology transfer Award" in Ankara, Turkey with cooperation of Turkey focal point (Nov. 2022);
- 7) Holding D-8 Co-Fund Initiative (D-8 CoFI) working group in Tehran, Iran (Nov. 2022);
- 8) Holding 7th High Council Meeting's online coordination event on December, 2022.

Distinguished Commissioners,

D-8 TTEN firmly believes that with out member states participant, we can't actualize huge capacity of technological cooperation between D-8 countries.

Approving charter of D-8 TTEN is a big step to help us and it needs participant of all member states. For this aim and some other practical issues, we have the honour to invite focal points of all member states to High council meeting of D-8 TTEN on 25th February; but unfortunately, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt and Indonesia focal points informed us that they couldn't participant in the meeting.

So, it would be also much appreciated if your excellencies could kindly request and emphasize your country related focal points to attend to our meetings and increase their participants on our event and programs.

**Mdm. Chair,
Excellencies Commissioners,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

- 1) I suggest this request will be written in final statements of meeting.**
- 2) Also I suggest D-8 TTEN charter again will be put in the next commission meeting agenda to be approved of course after suggested modifications.**
- 3) Also I suggest that presence of D-8 affiliated bodies in commission meetings will be approved here for future meetings. It helps us to use this opportunity to report our activities and use commissioners support more.**
- 4) Also I suggest if D-8 commissioners would approve some budget for D-8 TTEN, it can be paid from Iran membership debt and directly by them. With this method some part of this debt can be settled.**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

46th D-8 commission meeting, Istanbul, Turkey



D-8 HSP, Progress Report for year 2022

Dr Ado Muhammad, Global Director
February 2023

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4

Innovative Financing

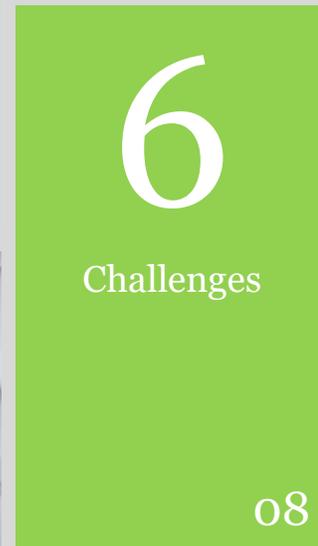
06



6

Challenges

08



The HSP mandate



HSP mandate

- Accelerate SDGs 1, 2, & 3
- Build partnerships, Advocacy, collaboration with governments

2021-2025 strategic vision

- Bespoke programme of SET
- Catalyze action for increased responsiveness, purposeful actions for health and wellbeing of D-8 citizens.

Priority pillars

- Innovative and sustainable financing
- Trade in health
- Data for performance and impact

Our appreciations to the Member Countries for the approval and endorsement of the SET programme at the 10th Heads of State Summit

Some reminder of the SET programme

Our vision is set on a bespoke programme of SET:

Our Aspiration – SET Agenda

The HSP in these five years would catalyze action for increased responsiveness, purposeful actions for health and wellbeing of D-8 citizens through our bespoke SET flagship Programme.

S Strengthen

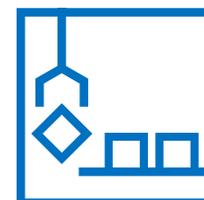
E Equity

T Transform



Strengthen the health systems

- Partner with MCs to support investment strategies, national policies and regulatory frameworks to strengthen domestic resourcing, financing and public financial management for health.
- Strengthen and support innovative financing mechanisms (corporate shared value, impact investments, Zakat, Takafuls, Waqf, Diaspora funding) that strengthen MCs health systems, reduce health inequities and minimizing financial hardship on the poor.



Equitable access

- Scale equitable /inclusive access to enabling policies and regulations and universal health care.
- Stimulate access to capital for the growth of the private sector across the entire value chain.
- Self-reliance of MCs in medical products, technologies as a net contributor to economic growth, trade and wealth creation.



Transforming the Health sector

- Develop and support tech-driven innovations aimed at improving data quality, availability, and management.
- Shared learnings across Member States with developed and efficient models for data management.
- Evidence -based advocacy to improve policy and regulation crucial to ease of Trade between Member Countries across the entire health value chain

2022 focus is on implementing 2 strategic pillars of the strategic plan



Innovative and Sustainable Financing

Trade in Health

Innovative Financing

Umma Zakat Fund: Context

Worsening socio-economic realities in D-8 countries could reverse the attainment of sustainable development goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and wellbeing)

Knowing that government funding is never enough, we are developing Islamic financing tools to complement such as Zakat

Zakat- as an Islamic financing instrument has proven to help in poverty reduction, improve solidarity and reduce social tensions in society, especially when coupled with waqf and sadaqah financing tools

We computed that in Nigeria, this program can collect at least \$3.2 billion annually in Zakat which can lift 4.5 million people out of poverty.

Malaysia and Indonesia Zakat system are case studies

Operationalization

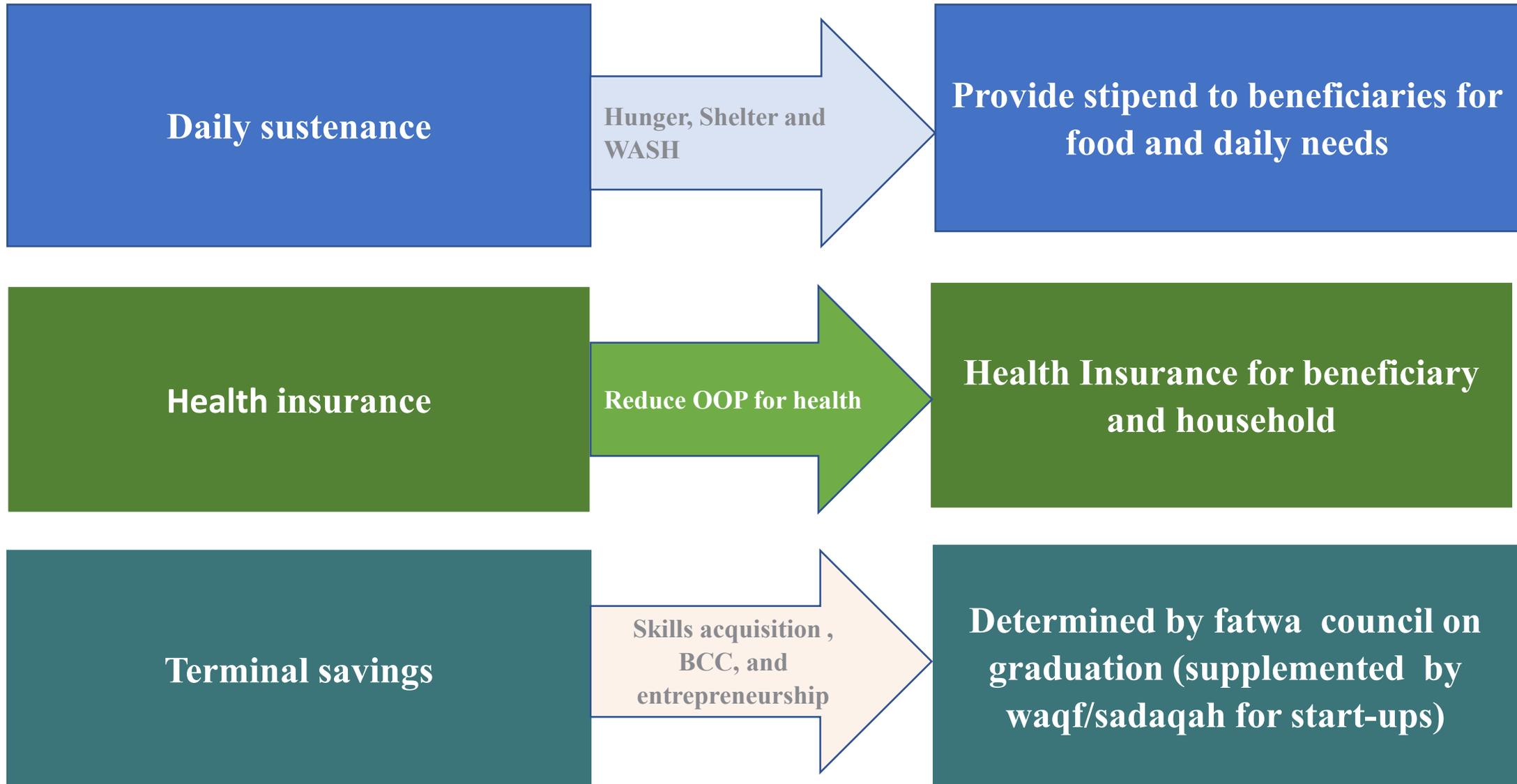
Aim is to pool zakat and widen the payer net, through a web-based platform that ensures effective and seamless distribution

Twelve months of project work is needed to operationalize this plan spanning four phases:

- **Phase 1, Design:** development of an IT blueprint to onboard payers, recipients, and administrators into one system for ease of transaction and real-time tracking and accountability.
- **Phase 2, Beta release:** testing the prototype to ensure it works to expectations especially maximizing user experience.
- **Phase 3, Pre-deployment:** pretesting the released version together with the Zakat and cards in a few selected areas towards hitch free deployment
- **Phase 4, Deployment:** Launch the UZF and transition to post-deployment operations.



D-8 Umma Zakat Card Design



Getting the job done requires people, structures, technologies

We have brought the right people together...

- ▶ National bodies
- ▶ International bodies
- ▶ Religious bodies
- ▶ Islamic banks

We have organized workshops and specific engagement meetings

- ▶ UNHCR workshop – Feb 2022
- ▶ UZF kick off workshop July 2022
- ▶ MOUs and NDAs with 20 Organizations July 2022
- ▶ Inauguration of steering committee Aug 2022



For a successful result we require...

From D-8 Secretariat

- Fast track access to the Project Support Fund for the Umma Zakat Fund and subsequent approval by the 46th commission
- Reach out to IsDB and deepen the partnership for easy access to Islamic financing windows (financial and technical support)

From 46th Commission

- Grant approval for the Project Support Fund
- Champion the cause in Member Countries to attract patronage by philanthropist

At full take-off by 2024 in Nigeria, 4.5 million people would have benefitted from the project and their livelihoods are improved

Trade in Health

Keep in Mind:

There is an estimated ~\$1.25Bn in value of the 2030 global addressable market in health



D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Markets was convened in October 2022

Objectives

- ❖ Disseminated the findings D-8/IsDB TGHM study
- ❖ Shared findings on the institutional, human, and market capacity constraints that impede the growth, viability, and integration of therapeutic goods health markets in MCs
- ❖ Mapped and identified B2B, and B2G opportunities for health trade in the bloc.



Feedback from the Forum

5 over 5



Identify 5 areas we expect high growth in the next 5 years.

5 years from now



Fast-forward 5 years from now. What are obstacles to health market growth?

Synergize



Areas of synergy for B2B, B2G. Finding B2G clusters

Outcome

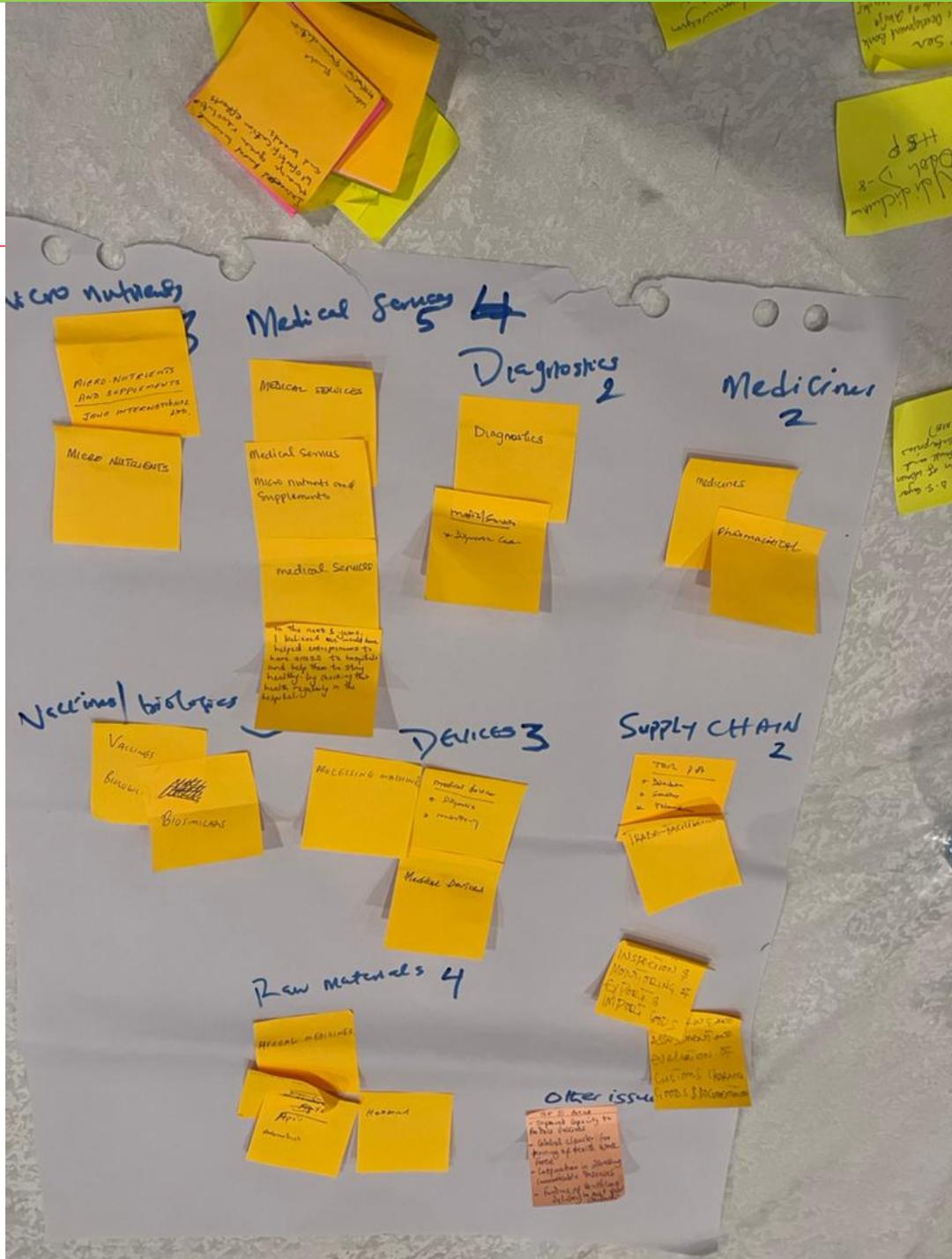
5 over 5



Identify 5 areas we expect high growth in the next 5 years

Feedback

- Medical Services
- Raw Materials
- Micro-nutrients
- Devices
- Diagnostics
- Supply Chain
- Medicines
- Vaccines/biologicals



5 years
from
now

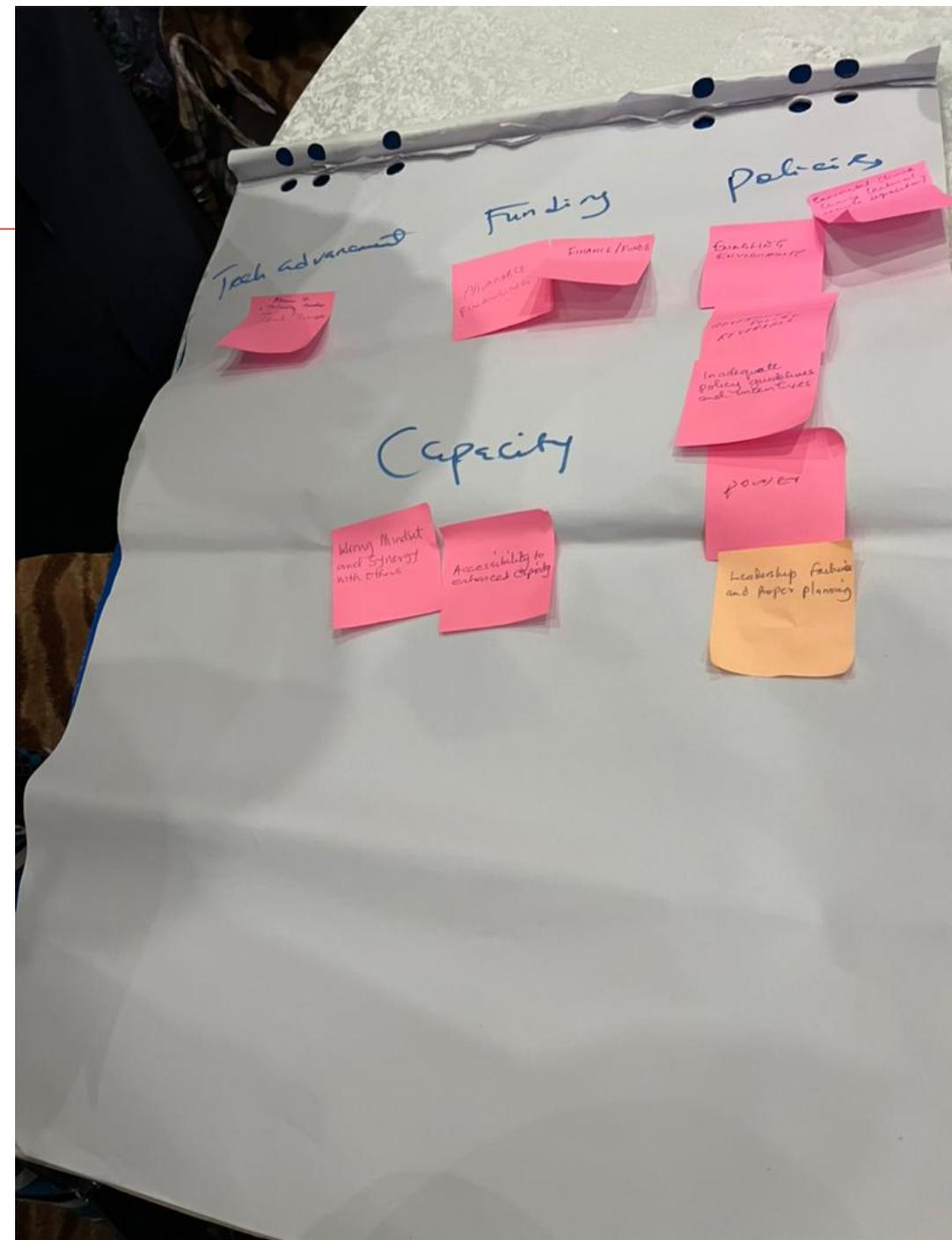


Fast-forward 5 years from now. What are obstacles to health market growth?

Outcome

Feedback

Policies
Capacity of SMEs to trade in health
Funding support for start-ups
Technological advancement in some countries



Outcome: we are developing possible business clusters between D-8 countries to ensure we speed-up the process of B2Gs (Egypt/Nigeria)

Synergize



Areas of synergy for B2B, B2G. Finding B2G clusters for Kaolin, Gum Arabic, Shear Butter,



3 point Recommendations from the D-8 Forum

01

Low Hanging Fruits

- ❖ Conduct a feasibility study on health grade kaolin in Nigeria
- ❖ Create a small group of SMEs and TGHM partnerships
- ❖ Set-up funds for feasibility studies to identify other high potential APIs

02

Immediate Strategy

- ❖ D-8 HSP and partners in D-8 countries to develop roadmap for next steps
- ❖ Advocacy to improve policy and regulation
- ❖ Conduct annual assessment of the health market value chain particularly for cross-country linkages
- ❖ D-8/IsDB to organize investors forum to discuss outcome
- ❖ Conduct API value chain feasibility study in D-8 countries

03

Long term Strategy

- ❖ Workshop to modify the D-8 PTA to add health trade as an addendum
- ❖ Obtain trade market sovereignty for member countries

Our asks

01

D-8 secretariat

- ❖ Support B2G clusters among member countries as recently formed between Nigeria and Egypt to promote D-8 inter-trade in APIs

02

46th Commission

- ❖ Bring to the attention of the Council of Ministers, the findings from this study and its wider ramification for improved trade between countries

03

Member countries

- ❖ Ratification of the existing PTA to include APIs identified by the study

Challenges

Most activities highlighted in the work plan were not carried out due to financial constraints

HSP still needs technical staffs to fill key positions

Prayers to the commission

- Adequate and Sustainable funding of the Programme
- HSP needs technical staffs to fill key positions such as M&E and data expert, Health systems expert, Capacity Development lead, Innovative and Health financing strategist to support and guarantee effective implementation of the five-year strategic plan.



Thank You

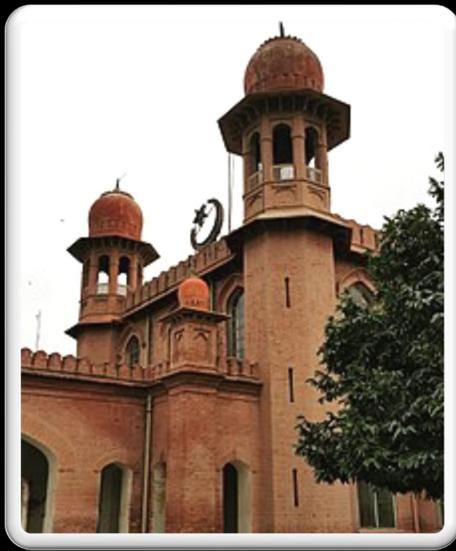


Center for Advanced Studies
in Agriculture and Food Security
The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF)

Prof. Dr Sultan Habibullah Khan, Director



D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

**VETERINARY
SCIENCE**

**AGRI. ENGG. &
TECHNOLOGY**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCIENCES

**FOOD, NUTRITION
AND HOME SCIENCES**

**COMMUNITY
COLLEGE/3 SUB-
CAMPUSES/CENTERS**

CAS-AFS

Centers for Advanced Studies



Higher
Education
Commission



ENERGY

WATER

AGRICULTURE/FOOD SECURITY

NUST/ PUET

MUET

UAF

Partner Universities



Center objectives

To conduct solution driven applied research to address emerging challenges to food and nutrition security

Organizational Framework

- **Center Director**
- **Thematic Chairs**
 - Climate Change
 - Agriculture Policy
 - Precision Agriculture
 - Biotechnology
 - Outreach

FOCUS AREAS

- Genome Editing in crops/animals/human health
- Precision farming
- Data Science
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- New crops/crop technologies



Research Labs

1. Climate Change Lab/Data center
2. Cotton Biotechnology Lab
3. Wheat Biology Lab
4. Soybean Lab
5. Chickpea Lab
6. Transformation Lab
7. Tree Pathology Lab
8. IVF Lab
9. One Health Lab
10. Precision Agric Lab



CAS-AFS Building

- Auditorium
- Library
- 04 lecture Rooms
- 02 Teaching Labs
- 12 Thematic Research Lab
- Student Common Rooms/Lockers
- RO & Water Treatment Plants



Building cost \$5m, Equipment cost \$2m

Current Funded Research at CAS

>500 M for Soybean adaptation/innovation from PODB/PARB/PSF/HEC

501 M for Genome Editing from MoST

111 M for Precision Agriculture Lab-NCBC from HEC

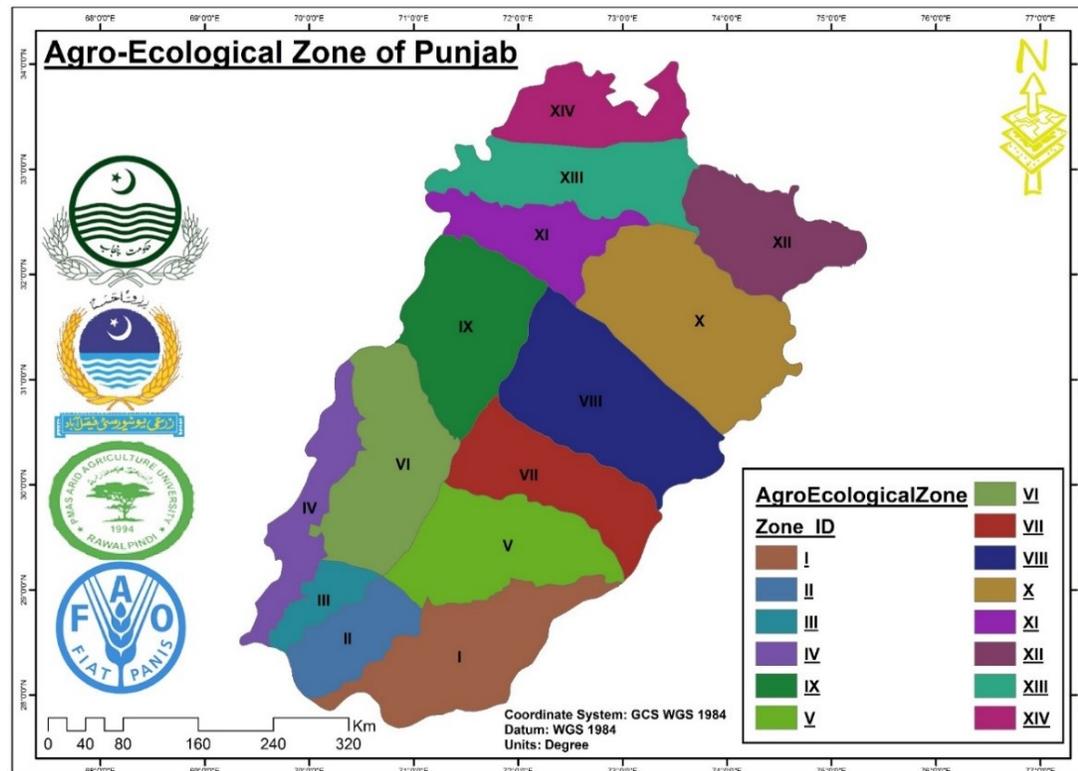
12 M for Sheesham Dieback from PARB

4 M for cancer bioinformatics from HEC

13.5 M for Kitchen Gardening Robot from NUST

1.3 M for AgroChain from EFS-UAF

14 AEZs of Punjab based on Temp., Rainfall, ET, Soil Type, pH and EC



Zone ID	Zone Name
I	Cholistan Desert
II	Arid Irrigated Zone
III	Cotton- Sugarcane Zone
IV	Rod Kohi
V	Semi Desert Irrigated Zone
VI	Mix Cropping Zone
VII	Cotton Mix Cropping Zone
VIII	Maize Wheat Mix Cropping Zone
IX	Thal- Gram Crop Zone
X	Rice-Wheat Zone
XI	Thal Zone 2
XII	Rice Zone
XIII	Groundnut-Medium Rainfall Zone
XIV	High Rainfall Zone

Introduction of Soybean as new crop

- 1200-soybean lines tested for five years (2017-2021; spring and autumn).
- Three types of soybean lines were identified for soybean import substitution in Pakistan.
- Erect soybean lines (10) recommended for Soybean-Based Intercropping Technologies.
- Indeterminate soybean lines (17) recommended for maize/sorghum silage.
- Heat-tolerant soybean lines (13) recommended for Southern Punjab and Sindh.
- All recommended soybean types (40) are Protein/Oil enriched. In addition, they have the significant potential to meet the growing poultry and livestock feed requirements.
- Potential import substitution 4 – 5 billion USD annually.



Erect-types



Silage-types



Heat-susceptible



Heat-tolerant

Performance of soybean with maize under strip intercropping technology (2017- 2021)

- Soybean (erect-type) produced 1.3-1.5 tons ha⁻¹ in soybean-based intercropping technology.
- Soybean (heat-tolerant) produced 1.0-1.3 tons ha⁻¹ in soybean-based intercropping technology.
- Maize produced 8.0-8.5 tons ha⁻¹ in soybean-based intercropping technology.
- Soybean-based intercropping technology achieved the land equivalent ratio from 1.35 - 1.47.
- Demonstration trials at several farmer's fields in progress.
- Soybean-based intercropping technologies has the potential to fulfill soybean requirements in Pakistan without reducing the area and yield of other crops.



Erect-type in intercropping technology (2:2)



Heat-tolerant in intercropping technology (4:2)

Chickpea Biotechnology

- A collection of **> 600 chickpea accessions** across the world (ICARDA, USDA, UC Davis, UWA)
- Screening of **>200 genotypes for drought tolerance** (Drought tolerant lines CH28/07, CH39/08, CH55/09)
- Nutritional profiling of **>200 chickpea lines for Iron and Zinc contents**
(High Iron = NOOR-2009, AK61, AK23)
(High Zinc = AK20, AK32, AK66)
- Screening of **>100 lines for salinity stress tolerance** (Pb-2008, 6009, 6018)
- Screening of **>100 lines for irrigation responsiveness** (22205, 22226, 22232)
- Molecular characterization of **>100 chickpea lines**



**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for
Climate Resilient Chickpea**





**Ministry of Science
& Technology**

DURATION: July 2021-24
PCSIR:1298.638 m (72.16%)
UAF: 500.960 m (27.84%)



**National Center for Genome Editing
(NCGE)**

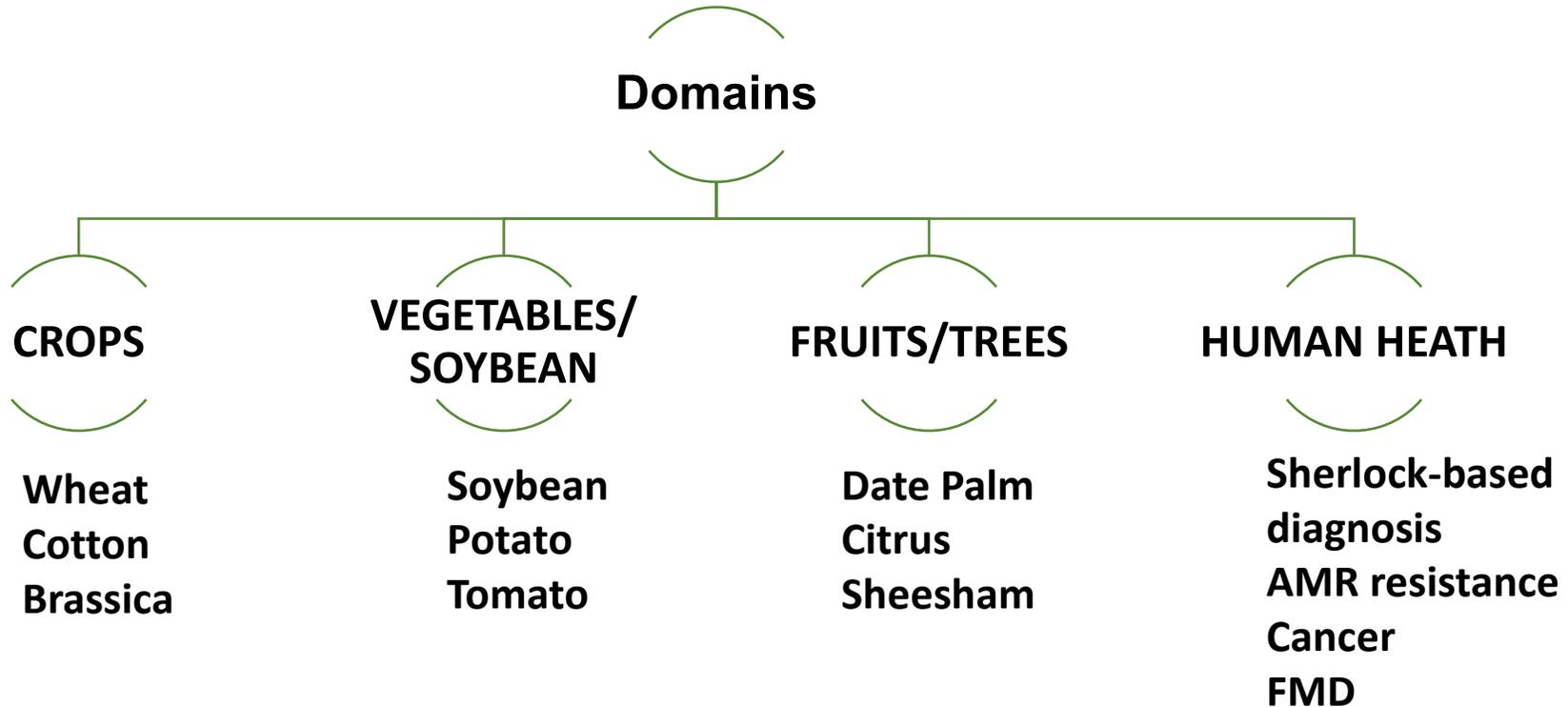
PSDP Serial No.1072

**Gene Editing of Biological agents for Nutritional,
Biochemicals and Therapeutic Purposes**

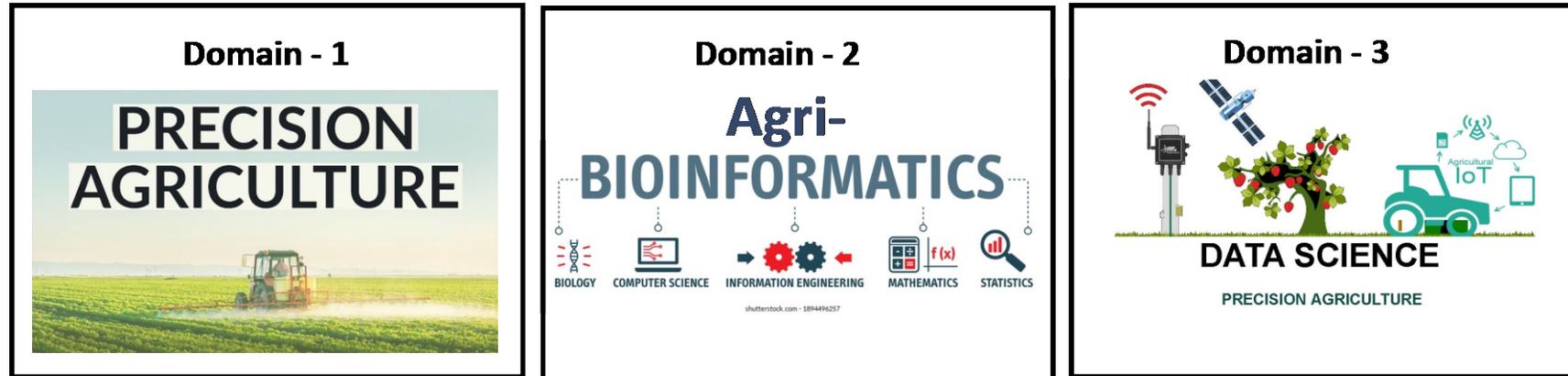
**Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and
Food Security, UAF**

NCGE Project Objectives

To fully exploit the potential of gene editing technology for indigenous research and production of bio-products aimed to address emerging issues in the domains of food security, energy, medicine and agriculture



Precision Agriculture and Analytics Lab (PAAL) by National Center in Big Data and Cloud Computing



Approved budget = Rs. 111.200 million

Equipment – 74.8 million HR – 36.4 million



USPCAS-AFS



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
FAISALABAD - PAKISTAN



HANDS ON TRAINING ON
**CRISPR/CAS
MEDIATED
GENOME
EDITING**

FEBRUARY 21-25, 2022

USPCASAFS.uaf.edu.pk

2nd National Hands-on Training on

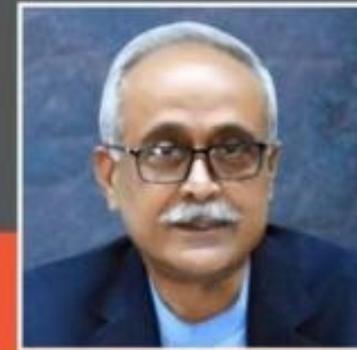
CRISPR/Cas-mediated GENOME EDITING



MAY 23-27, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
FAISALABAD - PAKISTAN



Dr. Karren A. Garrett
University of Florida

International Symposium on

Network Analysis in Agricultural Systems to address Grand Challenges to Food Security

JUNE 15-17, 2022



Organizers

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (S.I.)
Vice Chancellor,
University of Agriculture,
Faisalabad

Prof. Dr. Sultan Habibullah Khan
Director CAS-AFS,
University of Agriculture,
Faisalabad

Prof. Dr. Karren A. Garrett
Preeminent Professor,
Food Systems Institute,
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
**FOOD SECURITY
CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES
IN D-8 COUNTRIES**

D8

March 6-7, 2023



Participants

- D8 Secretary General
- IOFS DG
- D8 Country Ministers of Food security
- D8 Country Ambassadors in Pakistan
- All Agriculture Universities of Pakistan
- All Agriculture Institutes of Pakistan
- All Agriculture related private sector
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Policy Think tanks

Program

- Country papers
- Agriculture Expo
- UAF Agriculture Festival 2023
- MoUs for collaborations/Coperations



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

www.developing8.org



Bangladesh



Egypt



Indonesia



Iran



Malaysia



Nigeria



Pakistan

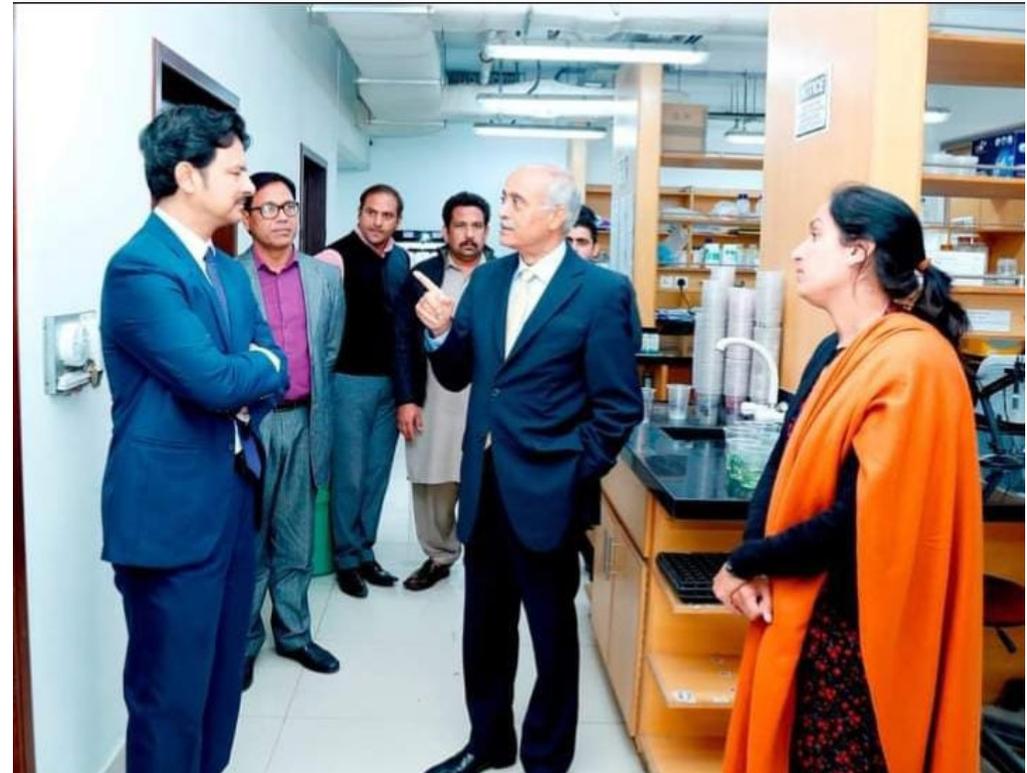


Turkey

Avenues for collaboration with D8 organizations

- Collaborative R&D programs
- Technology/Material Exchange
- Scholarly exchanges
- Scholarships
- Scoping Studies

Visit of H.E. Mr. Tarik Ahsan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to CAS (Former D-8 Commissioner)



Thank You!



D-8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-24

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
7 th Supervisory Committee on D-8 PTA Meeting and 3 rd Trade Ministers Council	Tentatively March / May 2023	Bangladesh	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Inaugural Meeting on D-8 SEZ	2023	Bangladesh	TBC
4 th Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on the implementation of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures	2023	Bangladesh	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
1 st Technical Meeting on ‘Promoting and Scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture’ (as per Dhaka Initiatives 2022)	2023	Bangladesh	TBA
1 st Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings of D-8 youth	08-11 May 2023	Bangladesh	Confirmed
47 th D-8 Commission Meeting	2023	Bangladesh	TBC
48 th D-8 Commission Meeting & 21 st Council of Ministers Meeting & 11 th D-8 Summit	2 nd quarter April 2024	Egypt	TBC
Task Force on Commercial Issues (Chair: Indonesia, Deputy Chair: Türkiye) (Virtual)	2023	Indonesia	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Standing Committee on ICT	4 th quarter 2023	Iran	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
1 st D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Energy	2023	Iran	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Task Force on Air Navigation & Air Traffic Management (Chair: Iran, Deputy Chair: Indonesia)	2023	Iran	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
5 th Technology Investment Meeting of D-8 TTEN (TIM)	27-28 February 2023	Iran	Confirmed
7 th High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN (HCM)	27-28 February 2023	Iran	Confirmed

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
Task Force on 'Safety & Security' (Chair: Malaysia, Deputy Chair: Pakistan) (Virtual)	2023	Malaysia	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
The D-8 Private-sector-led Energy ⁱ Forum	3 rd quarter of 2023	Nigeria	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Inauguration of the D-8 Center on SME	2023	Nigeria	TBC
1 st Ministerial Meeting on Health	Tentatively 2023	Nigeria	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
7 th Ministerial Meeting on D-8 Industrial Cooperation	2023	Nigeria	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Inauguration of D-8 Research Center	6-7 March 2023	Pakistan	Confirmed
4 th Senior Officials meeting on Tourism / 4 th Senior Officials and 3 rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism	Tentatively 2023	Pakistan	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) Meeting	08-09 March 2023	COMSATS University Islamabad	Confirmed
Task Force on Training & Capacity Building (Chair: Türkiye, Deputy Chair: Nigeria)	2023	Türkiye	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
Focused Group Discussion on Curriculum for Diplomatic Training for Diplomats from the D-8 Member States	2 nd quarter of 2023	Member States	Proposed
13 th D-8 Meeting of Directors-General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation	2023	Member States	TBA
Sensitization Program on the D-8 PTA ⁱⁱ	April-September 2023	Secretariat and D8CCI	Proposed
Webinar on Capacity Building on Customs Matters to Implement the D-8 PTA	April 2023	Secretariat & WCO	Proposed

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
WIPO-D8 Joint Webinar on IP-related Aspects of Trade	June 2023	WIPO & Secretariat	Proposed
D-8 Cultural and Tourism Event in Istanbul on 26 th anniversary	15 June 2023	Secretariat	TBC
Scoping Exercise on Capacity-building on Trade Facilitation and Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA	July 2023	Secretariat & WTO	Proposed
D-8 Business and Investment Forum (at the sideline of the 78 th Session of the UNGA) ⁱⁱⁱ	September 2023	Secretariat & Member States	Proposed
The 1 st D-8 E-Government Network Meeting ^{iv}	3 rd quarter of 2023	Secretariat and Digital Transformation Office, Türkiye	Proposed
D-8 Football Tournament ^v	3 rd quarter of 2023	Secretariat	Proposed
Thematic Session on “Joint UNCTAD – D8 Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking” at the UNCTAD World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates ^{vi}	16-20 October 2023	UNCTAD & Secretariat	Confirmed
3 rd Board of Trustee Meeting of the D-8 International University	2023	D-8 International University	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
8 th Senior Officials Meeting on Agriculture / 8 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	2023	TBC	TBA
4 th D-8 Technology Transfer Award of D-8 TTEN (TTA)	2023	D8 TTEN	TBC

TBA: To be Announced

TBC: To be Confirmed

ⁱ The D-8 Private-Led Energy Forum was proposed during the First D-8 Forum on SMEs and the Health Market in Abuja, 25-27 October 2022 and was further discussed during a series of meeting between the D-8 Secretary-General with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mining, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and the Nigerian Bulk Energy Trading, Plc. (NBET). NACCIMA and NBET have expressed their readiness to support the proposal to organize the Energy Forum. The Concept Note for the Forum has been developed and presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, NACCIMA, and NBET.

ⁱⁱ The objective of the sensitization program is to introduce the D-8 PTA to the private sector, which is the primary benefactor of the D-8 PTA. This new initiative will be led by the D-8 CCI and is conducted in all Member States with support from the Secretariat and D-8 CCI.

ⁱⁱⁱ The proposal to organize a D-8 Business and Investment Forum at the sideline of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session was initially tabled during the 77th Session of the UNGA. However, due to the timing required for preparation, the proposal had to be postponed. The objective of the proposal is to enhance the business and investment potential of D-8 Member States, taking benefit of the presence of leaders and high-ranking officials during the UNGA as well as the business community from across the globe. The D-8 Secretariat has identified the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce as a potential partner, while a Member State that has facilities may want to host the Forum.

^{iv} The establishment of a D-8 e-Government Network was one of the outcomes of the UNDESA-D8 Capacity-Building Workshop on e-government held in Istanbul, 17-18 November 2022. The proposal was discussed further during the meeting between the D-8 Secretary-General and the President of the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, where a follow-up event to the proposal was agreed upon in principle. The objective of this proposal is to strengthen digital transformation cooperation among the D-8 Member States.

^v This proposal aims to strengthen people-to-people contact to promote more frequent engagements among relevant stakeholders among the D-8 Member States through sports. The D-8 Secretary-General discussed this proposal with the Turkish Football Federation, who agreed to lend their support in developing a concept note and hosting the first D-8 Football Tournament.

^{vi} The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has submitted an official proposal to organize a joint session between UNCTAD and the D-8 Organization at the margin of the World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi on 16-20 October 2023. The proposal was a follow-up to the “Joint D8-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking” publication in 2022. The objective of this proposal is to promote the investment potential of the D-8 Member States. Given the vast opportunity this proposal can offer, the Member States are invited to mobilize their resources to support this program.

DRAFT

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE D-8 ENERGY FORUM LAGOS, NIGERIA

Background

In today's world, people from developed and developing countries face enormous challenges and acute crises in the energy field, albeit in varying degrees of severity. This leads to a further increase in the high prices of food and environmental and climate changes. The Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict exacerbated the challenges further. The world of the 21st century is designed with massive industrialization and technological transformation that demands power and energy in vast quantity as its primary driving force. The emergence of the 4th Industrial Revolution has further multiplied the energy appetite of the modern world. The pervasive nature of these challenges is undoubtedly beyond the capacity and capabilities of the individual developing nations. Therefore, cooperation in the field of energy is imperative.

Energy use is projected to continue growing until 2030, with oil and gas dominating the energy mix. On the demand side, developing countries will dominate this growth, especially those with sustained, high growth rates. However, there has also been a growing awareness that stable energy markets and efficient use of energy are imperative to make energy accessible and affordable to a larger share of the world's ever-increasing population.

Considering the pivotal role of energy in the development process, the leaders of the Member States of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) identified energy and mineral resources as one of the six critical areas of cooperation of the D-8. The priority is encapsulated in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030, where the Leaders set a target that all Member States should enjoy affordable and clean energy, which is encapsulated in one of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SGD-7. The Leaders also delineated strategies to achieve the goal, focusing on energy security, renewable energy, and energy transition.

It should be noted that the Member States of the D8 constitute one seventh (1/7) of the world's population (about 1.1 billion) and about 14% of global trade (700 billion Dollars). Given the nature of their energy demand, the D-8 countries offer vast potential for new investments and market expansion. Cooperation in energy trade, financing for energy sectors, capacity-building programs, and sustainability of supply needs have gained more attention in recent years, particularly with the establishment of the working group of D-8 Member states on renewable energy cooperation.

In view of the foregoing, and in line with the D-8 2030 Agenda to ensure energy security, including providing affordable and clean energy for all the Member States, the D-8 Secretariat came up with the idea of organizing a D-8 Energy Forum in 2023 to bring together leaders from government institutions and businesses from D-8 countries for in-depth discussions

45 about the latest trends and opportunities available in the energy market of their respective
46 countries with the ultimate aim of leveraging on their areas of complementarities to grow the
47 energy sector collectively.

48

49 For this purpose, the D-8 Secretary-General, on the sideline of the D-8 Small and Medium
50 Enterprises (SME) Forum and Health Markets held in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2022 had
51 initiated discussions with some key stakeholders in the Nigerian energy sector, including the
52 Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) and the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce, Industry,
53 Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA). The meetings discussed possible cooperation among the
54 D-8 Member States to increase the production and trade of energy and the possibility of
55 partnering with the D-8 Secretariat to organize a private-sector-promoted D-8 Forum on
56 Energy in Nigeria in the second quarter of 2023. The NBET and NACCIMA welcomed the idea
57 of organizing the proposed D-8 Forum on Energy. They noted that the participation of other
58 entities in Nigeria and member countries of the D8 would be beneficial to the event.

59

60 **Brief Background on NBET and NACCIMA**

61

62 **NBET**

63

64 NBET is an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) incorporated in 2010 as a
65 Public Limited Company and has been operating in the Nigerian electricity market since 2011.
66 It holds a Bulk Electricity Purchase and Resale License issued by the Nigerian Electricity
67 Regulatory Commission (NERC) and serves as an Intermediary between Generation
68 Companies (GenCos)/ Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Distribution Companies
69 (DisCos) in the electricity market. Its establishment was part of the power sector reform
70 agenda of the FGN aimed at transforming the sector from a vertically integrated public
71 monopoly to an unbundled, liberalized, private sector-led electricity market.

72

73 NBET's mandate also includes electricity sale to industrial customers (also known as "Eligible
74 Customers") and international customers. Its establishment and operation over the years has
75 been key to driving investor confidence in the electricity market especially with respect to
76 power generation.

77

78 **NACCIMA**

79

80 NACCIMA was established as a voluntary business association in Nigeria and has been
81 operational since 1960. It has 410 corporate members and currently serves as an umbrella
82 organisation for 64 city/state member Chambers of Commerce within Nigeria, 9 Business
83 Associations, and 5 Bilateral Chambers of Commerce established with other countries.

84

85 NACCIMA engages in policy advocacy and seeks to influence public policies affecting the
86 business community with a view to ensuring an enabling business environment in the country.

87

88 **Overview of the Energy Sector in D8**

89

90 The energy demand in the D-8 Member States is rising rapidly as all the countries are
91 emerging economies with high growth rates. The power consumption of the Member States
92 is dominated mainly by fossil fuels, i.e., oil, coal, and natural gas. Rapid economic and
93 population growth in the past two decades has driven strong energy demand growth and an
94 associated increase in import dependency of most of the D-8 Member States. In recent years,
95 Member States have been trying to diversify their energy mix to reduce their reliance on fossil
96 fuels due to the fact that the source depletion nature of the fossil fuels poses a considerable
97 threat to their energy security and achieving net-zero Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in
98 accordance with the Paris Agreement. Renewable energy sources like nuclear, hydro, solar,
99 wind and bio sources are gaining growing importance.

100

101 According to the data published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), most
102 of the D-8 Member States fare relatively well in electricity generation. In 2020, Bangladesh
103 produced 85.138 GWh of electricity, with 99% of that amount from non-renewable sources.
104 Egypt had 197.678 GWh of electricity, with 88% coming from non-renewable sources.
105 Indonesia produced 285.899 GWh of electricity, with 83% of its origins being non-renewable.
106 Iran generated 334.587 GWh of electricity in the same year, with 96% of the sources being
107 non-renewable. Malaysia generated 175.995 GWh of electricity in 2021, with 84% coming
108 from non-renewable sources. Nigeria produced 35.331 GWh of electricity, with 77% coming
109 from non-renewable sources. Pakistan generated 137.412 GWh of electricity, with 67% made
110 from non-renewable sources. While Türkiye managed to produce 306.706 GWh of electricity
111 in the same year, 58% came from non-renewable sources.

112

113 Table 1 below shows the energy production and consumption of the D-8 Member States.

114

115 Table 1¹

Electricity Generation Renewable, Wind Energy, Onshore	Unit	BD	EG	ID	IR	MY	NG	PK	TR
Energy Production (in Millions)	Tons of Oil Equivalent	30	87	447	330	92	238	73	44
Production of Crude Oil (in Thousands)	Barrels per Day		487	631	1,991	540	1,493		
Production of Electricity (in Billions)	kWh	85	192	292	325	183	32	133	

¹ Source: Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), data for the year 2020.

Production of Natural Gas, World Marketed (in Millions)	M3	23,500	61,770	59,984	249,630	62,900	49,947	35,800
Proven Reserves, Natural Gas (in Billions)	M3	285	2,209	2,728	33,988	2,179	5,750	428
Proven Reserves, Oil (in Millions)	Barrels		3,075	2,480	208,600	3,600	36,910	
Total Final Energy Consumption (in Millions)	Tons of Oil Equivalent	30	57	152	195	61	136	88

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According to data obtained from IRENA, most of the D-8 Member States are active in energy. The Member States are also embarking upon considerable diversification of their energy mix. In particular, renewable energy has staged impressive growth, with renewable electricity generation tripling in the past decade.

	Primary Energy Trade					
	EXPORT (in Terajoule)	IMPORT (in Terajoule)	Net Trade	Imports (% of Supply)	Exports (% of production)	Energy Self Sufficiency (%)
BANGLADESH	97	532040	-531.943	26	0	75
EGYPT	658.926,00	795.743,00	-136.817	19	16	98
INDONESIA	12.148.787,00	2.122.587,00	10.026.200	19	57	190
IRAN	3.522.812,00	292.585,00	3.230.227	3	24	129
MALAYSIA	2.262.009,00	2.356.345,00	-94.336	58	58	105
NIGERIA	5.123.160,00	941.008,00	4.182.152	14	47	164
PAKISTAN	26.900,00	1.522.065,00	-1.495.165	39	1	62
TURKIYE	402.538,00	4.840.258,00	-4.437.72	80	20	30

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In view of the foregoing, there is a high potential for reciprocity and complementarity among the D-8 Member States, not only in the field of energy trade among themselves but also in exchanging their experiences and best practices for enhancing the capacity of their relevant officials, institutions and companies operating in the energy sector. It is against this background, therefore, that the D-8 Secretariat wishes to organize the proposed Energy Forum in Lagos, Nigeria to explore potential opportunities for the development of the energy sector in D8 countries in line with the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 and the SDG7.

Choice of Nigeria for hosting the Proposed Energy Forum

134 Nigeria has shown stellar leadership especially in the area of renewable energy policy. At the
135 United Nations General Assembly conference held in September 2021, His Excellency,
136 President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR affirmed that Nigeria is working on a transition to a low
137 carbon economy, consistent with achieving the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable
138 Development Goals.

139

140 In November 2021, Nigeria enacted the Climate Change Act 2021, which set a Net Zero GHG
141 Emissions Target of 2050-2070. Following that, in February 2022, the government approved
142 an Energy Transition Plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions that set a target for 2060.
143 Nigeria is taking key steps striving to attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals - SDG-7 as
144 well as SDG-13 (Urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

145

146 **Basis for collaboration between NBET and NACCIMA in organizing the D-8 Energy Forum**

147

148 The Guiding Principles outlined in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 include amongst
149 others, that “the private sector should be the main engine of growth, with the government
150 proactively creating an enabling environment and providing supportive infrastructure in
151 accordance with national plans and priorities”.

152

153 Furthermore, the key programs within the Roadmap includes “promoting cooperation
154 between government and chambers, associations, large companies, and other relevant
155 institutions of the Member States to strengthen public-private partnership in contributing to
156 the development of [Small and Medium Enterprises] SMEs.” It also includes, “Enhancing
157 participation of the private sector in D-8 cooperation through active involvement of the
158 chamber of commerce association, regular organization of Business Fora, and holding
159 specialized exhibitions and coordinating meetings among chambers of commerce in order to
160 develop potential programmes, etc.”

161

162 The collaborative work of NBET and NACCIMA in organizing the proposed D-8 Forum on
163 Energy will serve to advance the key mandates of both organisations.

164

165 For NACCIMA, it serves to align the business projections and targets of its members with the
166 government’s policy especially in the area of energy for industrial purposes. Currently, a
167 misalignment exists between industrial electricity demand and supply in the country, with
168 many businesses substantially relying on self-generation to meet their energy requirements.
169 According to Nigeria’s Energy Transition Plan 2022, 80% of operational energy capacity comes
170 from off-grid diesel/petrol generators, which are expensive to procure and maintain and also
171 run on fuel that increases the country’s GHG emissions. NACCIMA members will be able to
172 network effectively with their business counterparts from other D-8 countries and gain insight
173 into the business opportunities in these countries.

174

175 For NBET, collaborating with NACCIMA in organizing the forum serves to create an
176 institutional alignment with NACCIMA with a view to addressing the key energy

177 requirements of NACCIMA members and mapping out strategies for addressing these needs
178 in a sustainable manner.

179

180 NBET is the Government agency that executes Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with IPPs
181 seeking to invest in electricity supply to the grid including renewable energy projects. The
182 company is in the process of establishing an energy exchange leveraging on a cooperation
183 agreement it signed in August 2022 with the Turkiye energy exchange, Enerji Piyasaları
184 İşletme A.Ş. (EPİAŞ). NBET is taking the lead to roll out this great initiative that will interest
185 investors and partners across the D-8 member states as it seeks to create a very competitive,
186 efficient and transparent automated marketplace for the trading of electricity and gas within
187 and beyond the country. It is also aimed at facilitating carbon trading and the development
188 of a carbon credit market. Hosting the Energy Forum in Nigeria would provide a discussion
189 forum that would not only be a hub for attracting investors but a perfect platform for
190 crowdsourcing ideas, gaining valuable feedback and upgrading value proposition for various
191 initiatives in the NESI including that of the Energy Exchange.

192

193 For the D-8, working with NBET and NACCIMA in organizing the Energy Forum will enable it
194 gain full insight into the opportunities that exist within Nigeria in the energy sector including
195 the area of renewable energy and how other D-8 countries can key into the emerging
196 opportunities in the Nigerian business environment. It will also serve to enlighten D-8
197 Member States on the policy, legal and regulatory environment for energy investments in
198 Nigeria and how business relationships can be effectively forged and deepened between their
199 respective business/industrial groups.

200

201 **Objectives of D-8 Energy Forum**

202

203 The purpose of the D-8 Energy Forum is to create a platform for businesses in the energy
204 sector, both state-owned enterprises and private sectors from the D-8 Member States, to
205 build networks and collaborate in the energy sector in line with the D-8 2023 Decennial
206 Roadmap. Therefore, the Forum's objectives are to:

207

208 I. Enhance investment in the energy sector;

209

210 II. Facilitate and enhance energy trade among the Member States;

211

212 III. Promote the use of environment-friendly and sustainable sources of energy;

213

214 IV. Strengthen institutional and human capacities in the energy sector of the D-8;

215

216 V. Build a strong network and enhance collaboration among them; and

217

218 VI. Share experiences and best practices.

219

220 VII. Advance policy collaboration between the government agencies of D-8 countries, in the
221 areas of energy market development and attainment of GHG emission reduction
222 targets.

223

224 **Forum Theme**

225

226 Any of the following proposed themes could be considered by the organizers of the event:

227

228 ❖ Option A: “A pathway towards energy security and sustainable energy future ”.

229 ❖ Option B: “Building Energy for the Just Transition”.

230 ❖ Option C: “Partnership for Energy sufficiency with D8”.

231

232 **Format**

233

234 The Forum will comprise of the following activities:

235

236 ❖ Plenary discussions.

237 ❖ Panel discussion.

238 ❖ One-on-One engagements between key public and private
239 stakeholders.

240 ❖ Business Matchmaking.

241 ❖ Power and Energy Exhibition.

242

243

244 **Proposed Location and Period**

245

246 The Forum will be organized in Lagos, Nigeria, in the second quarter of 2023 at a venue to
247 be determined by the Organizers.

248

249 **Organizers**

250

251 The NACCIMA and NBET will jointly organize the event with the facilitation of the D-8
252 Secretariat and the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria.

253

254 **Target audience**

255

256 The targeted participants of this forum will include the following:

257

258 ❖ Government agencies and state-owned enterprises of member states directly or
259 indirectly related to energy production, promotion, distribution, and trading.

260

261 ❖ Private businesses of the Member States, which are directly or indirectly related to the
262 production, promotion, distribution, and trading of energy.

263

264 ❖ Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the D-8 Member States Development partners;
265 and

266

267 ❖ Strategic international players in the global energy industry.

268

269 **Proposed topics**

270

271 Event participants will experience two days of brainstorming around themes such as green
272 finance, investment capital outlay, technology deployment, and more.

273

274 Topics to be addressed may include the following:

275

276 ❖ The role of human capital development in a successful energy transition in D8 and
277 achieving the net zero.

278

279 ❖ Energy Security vs. Low-Carbon Transition: How to Square the Circle.

280

281 ❖ The role of energy infrastructure in the D-8 long-term vision for a climate-neutral
282 economy.

283

284 ❖ Cooperation for the future of energy infrastructure planning in D8 countries. Integrating
285 Soar and wind into the grid in D8 countries.

286

287 ❖ Industrial and Corporate de-carbonization in D8 countries.

288 ❖ The role of financing institutions in accelerating the energy transition,

289

290 ❖ Current trends in the development of green finance in D8 Member countries: Financing
291 mechanisms and mobilizing resources to accelerate clean energy transition-related
292 investments.

293

294 ❖ Developing carbon credit markets within the D-8 countries.

295

296 ❖ Renewable energy projects, current status, and investment potential in D8 countries.

297

298 ❖ R&D, Innovation, and leading-edge technology – where do investors see the most
299 significant transformational potential? Which solutions and tools are being developed?

300

301 ❖ Energy-related challenges faced by developing countries to further propel their industries,

302

303 ❖ The gap between the government’s existing grid with small independent electric
304 producers,

305

306 ❖ Energy storage and D8’s place in the global energy supply chains.

307

308 **Cost and Budget**

309

310 The cost of organizing the Forum will be prepared by NACCIMA, NBET, and the D-8
311 Secretariat, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria.

312

313 **Participation Fees**

314

315 The forum may be free of recharge. Registration will be required.

316

317 **Administrative Arrangements**

318 The administrative arrangements of the event will be determined by the Organizers and
319 conveyed to the member states.

320

321 **Potential Partners**

322

323 The Organizers will invite potential partners from the D-8 Member States to broaden the
324 potential of cooperation and business engagement during the Forum. In light of this, the
325 partners from the Member States are expected to invite business entities from their
326 respective countries and to continuously engage with them to ensure the business entities
327 from their countries attend the event.

328

329 **To this end, potential partners will be as follows:**

330

- 331 ❖ Ministries of Foreign Affairs of D-8 Countries.
- 332 ❖ Ministries in charge of energy, trade and industries in D-8 Countries.
- 333 ❖ D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- 334 ❖ Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturers Associations from the D-8 Countries.

335

336 **Potential sponsors**

337

338 The Organizers will ensure the financing and administrative aspects to organize the forum.
339 However, the event should also be open to sponsorship by interested entities from the
340 member states and development partners.

341

342 To this end, the non-exhaustive list of potential sponsors and partners may include the
343 following:

344

345 ❖ **NIGERIA:** NBET, NACCIMA, SMEDAN, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, Bank of
346 Industry of Nigeria

347

348 ❖ **BANGLADESH:** Bangladesh Power Development Board, Power Grid Company of
349 Bangladesh, Summit Power Ltd. Petrobangla, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC),
350 Bureau of Mineral Development, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

351

- 352 ❖ **EGYPT:** The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), The Egyptian Natural Gas
353 Holding Company (EGAS), The Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Company (ECHEM), The
354 Ganoub El-Wadi Holding Company (GANOPE), The Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining
355 Authority (EMRA).
356
- 357 ❖ **INDONESIA:** PT PERTAMINA Tbk, and PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (National Electricity
358 Company).
359
- 360 ❖ **IRAN:** National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Dana Energy, and TAVANIR.
361
- 362 ❖ **MALAYSIA:** Petronas and Tenaga Nasional Bhd.
363
- 364 ❖ **PAKISTAN:** Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Pakistan Electric
365 Power Company (PEPCO), and their respective subsidiaries.
366
- 367 ❖ **TÜRKIYE:** Eren Holding, Elektrik Üretim A.Ş., Akenerji Elektrik Üretim A.Ş.
368
- 369 ❖ **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the
370 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and International Energy Agency (IEA).
371

372 **Project Consultant**

373

374 The organizers may appoint a project consultant to ensure smooth planning and
375 implementation of the event. The Organizers will determine the mandate of the Project
376 Consultant.
377

378 **Expected Output and Outcome**

379

380 The Forum is expected to produce cooperation commitments among the Member States'
381 private sectors in energy production, distribution, and marketing.

382 The outcomes of the Forum, therefore, are:

- 383
- 384 I. The trade and investment increase in the Member States' energy sectors.
385
 - 386 II. Ensuring sustainability of the energy supply.
387
 - 388 III. Supporting sufficiency in energy needs.
389
 - 390 IV. Facilitating viable financing in the energy sector.
391
 - 392 V. Developing human resources with increased capacity.
393
 - 394 VI. Fostering strengthened coordination and collaboration among the Member States.
395

396 The recommendation and outcome of the forum would be presented to the D-8 Working
397 Group on Energy and the Ministerial Meeting on Energy for consideration.

398

399 **Sustaining The Positive Gains of the D-8 Energy Forum**

400

401 It is important that the D-8 Energy Forum is not just a one-off event that brings together
402 energy policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders in the D-8 community With a view to
403 sustaining the positive gains of the forum, it is proposed that a D-8 Centre of Excellence in
404 Renewable Energy and GHG emission reduction be established, domiciled in NBET, the agency
405 of the Nigerian government that is best suited to lead its energy-related engagements at the
406 D-8 based on its mandate.

407

408 The centre will be a one-stop-shop for providing advisory and technical support to prospective
409 IPPs seeking to invest in renewable energy in Nigeria and gain insight into business
410 opportunities in other D-8 countries in the area of renewable energy. The centre would also
411 target the following objectives:

412

413 A. Facilitate the Operationalization of a National policy on Decarbonization in the energy
414 sector. Due to current severe national baseload power supply deficit there is focus on Gas
415 as a transition fuel to provide a bridge to renewable energy. Hydroelectric power will also
416 be crucial in the transition process.

417

418 B. Provide Research support, including feasibility studies on renewable energy and
419 applicable technologies (solar, wind, hydrogen, geothermal, tidal and wave energy,
420 biomass

421

422 C. Serve as a data aggregation hub for providing high grade energy intelligence to D-8
423 Member States, to facilitate investment decision-making.

424

425 D. Provide a comprehensive interactive map showing the geo-locations of the generation
426 plants, transmission and distribution network, gas pipeline network, energy locations and
427 commercial/industrial energy customers based on their energy requirement, and guide
428 D-8 members seeking to invest in the Nigerian energy market and the broader market
429 within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

430

431 E. Facilitate carbon trading and development of a Carbon Credit market.

432

433 F. Provide Technical Advisory Support (Legal, Commercial, Financial and Technical) for clean
434 energy projects including existing gas fired power plants retrofitting for waste and heat
435 recovery.

436

437 G. Provide support to prospective developers in accessing climate and cleaning energy funds
438 including grant to support target investment that facilitate bilateral transactions for the
439 supply of renewable energy to homes and industries.

440

441 H. Facilitate capacity development with government institutions in the energy sphere and
442 experience exchange within the D-8 on global practice.



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: 531/1486806

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in Istanbul and has the honor to enclose herewith a concept note on the proposal on rotation of the D-8 Chairmanship.

It would be appreciated if the esteemed Secretariat distributes the concept note among Member States and includes the proposal in the Agenda of the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in Istanbul the assurances of its highest consideration.

1February2023

Rotation of the D-8 Chairmanship

Proposed arrangement by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Background

1. The strengthening of “the legal and institutional framework” of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was among the recognized needs when the eight founding Members of the Organization, inspired “to work in an institutional manner towards the full realization of the vast potentials of the Member Countries”, agreed to the Charter of the Organization.
2. The Charter of the Organization, throughout of its Articles, has gone to great lengths to set forth the needed roles and Organs, as well as the Rules of Procedure to ensure the effective administration of the Organization.
3. Among the defined roles, the Chair of D-8 that “shall preside over all meetings of the principal organs and technical meetings” and “shall exert its utmost efforts to promote the objectives of the Organization” has an eminent role in facilitating the functions of the Organization including, but not limited to, the conduct of meetings of the Principal Organs.
4. According to article 6.3 of the Charter, “*The Summit is convened once every two years in the territory of one of the Member states by rotation*”. Article 14.1 of the Charter specifies “*Member States hosting the Summit shall assume the D-8 Chair...*”. In practice, transition of chairmanship has been delayed, in a number of occasions, due to very fact that there has been no volunteer to host the Summit, or the volunteer

country was not in the position to organize the Summit in the expected timeframe. In other words, and as per current practice, if there is no volunteer to host the Summit, or if there is no clear prospect of when exactly the next Summit is convened by the envisaged next chair, the incumbent Chair should continue. This means that to the extent the Summit is delayed, the assumption of chairmanship is delayed, leading to the indefinite extension of the tenure of the incumbent chairman, with extra financial and other burdens. This is against the very spirit of equal/equitable burden-sharing and the imperative of an enhanced sense of ownership among the Member States.

Proposal

As per practice in many regional and international organizations, the D-8 chairmanship should rotate in alphabetical order on 1st January every two years. As per D-8 Rules of Procedure, the Chair presides over the D-8 Principal Organs, including Summit (Rule 8.2 of D-8 Rules of Procedure). Given the fact that the Summit is convened once every two years (Charter and Rules of Procedure), the incumbent chair has a flexibility to organize it when it deems it possible during its chairmanship.

The envisaged calendar of chairmanship as per above formula is tabulated below:

Until 31 Dec 2023	1 st Jan 2024-31Dec 2025	1 st Jan 2025-31Dec 2026	1 st Jan 2027-31Dec 2028	1 st Jan 2029-31Dec 2030	1 st Jan 2031-31Dec 2032	1 st Jan 2033-31Dec 2034	1 st Jan 2035-31Dec 2036
Bangladesh	Egypt	Indonesia	Iran	Malaysia	Nigeria	Pakistan	Turkey

D-8 Parliamentary Assembly (DPA)

Proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran

i. Background

1. Promotion and enhancement of “joint efforts” towards achieving sustainable development is among objectives of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation whose Member States are “determined to make collective endeavors” for prosperity and welfare of their people and reaching “common economic goals of development”. The “D-8 Global Vision” commits Members States “to promote fruitful collaboration and close cooperation in the widest possible fields...and enhance mutually beneficial interdependence within the D-8 community”.
2. People-to-people relations and expansion of ties between domestic bodies of the Member States, including Parliaments, has an indubitable role in strengthening of “deep-rooted historical affinities” within the Organization. As an organization “committed to forge a common approach” among Member States, D-8 has an obvious interest and advantage in building up closer ties among 8 national legislative bodies. A strong and concerted “legislative support” for D-8 governments in their pushing for economic cooperation is both facilitating and encouraging.
3. With these in mind, Foreign Minister Dr. Amir-Abdollahian in his address to the 20th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers on 27 July 2022 highlighted that “the capacity of the parliaments of the Member States should be tapped for the purpose of developing and advancing our cooperation”. He proposed that the Secretariat “examines the possibility of holding joint meetings between the parliaments of the eight countries, and even the possibility of setting up a D-8 inter-parliamentary body and expressed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to lend its support. The

following proposal is intended to open discussions on the proposed idea in the Commission.

ii. Proposal

The speakers of national parliaments of the Member States may convene a joint meeting, date and venue¹ to be agreed, and start parliamentary cooperation within D-8. They may institutionalize their envisaged cooperation in the form of a parliamentary body to be called, for instance, the D-8 Parliamentary Assembly (DPA) or else.

iii. Objectives

- a. To harness potential and capacities that the parliaments, individually and collectively, can offer to assist realization of D-8 noble goals and objectives.
- b. To give parliaments of the Member States the opportunity to establish multilateral parliamentary cooperation and engagement (Parliamentary diplomacy).

iv. Functions and Structure

As soon as the D-8 parliaments agree on the establishment of the proposed body, a drafting process should prepare drafts of the main documents, including charter, rules of procedure, structure, etc.

The Commission may discuss an optimal roadmap leading to establishment of the proposed DPA.

¹ The first meeting may be hosted by a volunteer Speaker, or may be held on the sidelines of IPU Assembly where all 8 Parliaments are present.

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE D-8 COMMISSIONERS ON THE EARTHQUAKE
IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023**

We, the Commissioners of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8 Organization) from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye, gathered for our 46th Session in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 15-16 February 2023, offered our deepest condolences to the people and Government of the Republic of Türkiye for the devastating earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023.

We offered prayers and heartfelt condolences for the departed souls and also wished for the speedy recovery of those who were injured during the earthquake and extended our cooperation during these challenging times. Having witnessed the resilience of the Turkish people, we are confident that Türkiye will successfully move to the recovery and reconstruction phase.

We were encouraged by the demonstration of solidarity by the D-8 Member States in swiftly providing assistance for the disaster response and relief efforts being conducted by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye. We are also confident that the assistance provided would contribute towards emergency response and reconstruction in the affected regions.

Considering that natural disasters at a relatively massive scale happening in many of the D-8 Member States, we also agreed to explore the establishment of a D-8 disaster response and relief mechanism.

Istanbul, 16 February 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

D-8 COMMITTEE IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The D-8 Secretariat establishes this concept note to provide the rationale for the proposal to develop D-8 committees in third countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The D-8 Organization can enjoy broader support and partnership with international partners if it can manage strengthened relations with other countries and international organizations. In addition, support and collaboration can also be garnered if the international community understands the D-8 organization better.
2. Furthermore, the D-8 Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to active participation, effective coordination, and cooperation with all relevant regional and international organizations to maximize the realization of the Organization's interests and to contribute to the development of the D-8 Member States, as envisioned in the Dhaka Declaration 2021.
3. Upon taking office on 1 January 2022, the D-8 Secretary-General envisioned enhancing the Organization's visibility, both within the D-8 Member States and in the global arena, as one of his twin visions. Accordingly, the outward-looking policy is intended to enhance the organization's visibility. In so doing, the D-8 Secretariat revamp its efforts to forge a stronger relationship with other international organizations and entities.
4. The D-8 Secretariat also believes that the Organization must nurture friendly relations with external entities to promote a broader scope of cooperation through mutually beneficial dialogue, partnerships, and tangible collaboration.
5. The Organization's enhanced visibility will bring more benefits by making it more widely known. The enhanced visibility would also significantly contribute to achieving the Organizations' objective to improve developing countries' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, and provide a better standard of living for its citizens.
6. Moreover, the D-8 Organization is currently in its second life cycle, comprised of result-oriented and tangible programs in the priority areas delineated in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030. Many of the Organization's projects and programs require significant resources and financial support, which may be obtained from other international entities.
7. For example, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) provided full coverage to the Capacity-Building Workshop on the New Approaches to E-Government Implementing new approaches to E-government for SDG Implementation, jointly organized by the D-8 Secretariat and UN DESA in Istanbul, on 17-18 November 2022.
8. In its effort to enhance the Organization's visibility in the global arena, the D-8 Secretariat is of the view that the D-8 Organization can utilize the diplomatic strength and resources of its Member States to support the promotion of its interest and

identities in the global setting through the establishment of a D-8 committee in a third country or international organization.

II. DEFINITION & PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

9. The D-8 committee in third countries and international organizations is a mechanism comprising heads of diplomatic missions of the D-8 Member States in a particular third country or in relation to an international organization.
10. The committee may conduct activities in a host country or international organization by utilizing resources of the respective mission of the D-8 Member States. The proposed activities must be communicated to the D-8 Commission through the D-8 Secretary-General for consideration by the Commission.
11. The committee may meet one every quarter, or more frequently, if deemed necessary.
12. The head of mission of the D-8 Member State that chairs the D-8 Organization should assume the position as chair of the D-8 committee in their host country or international organization.

III. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

13. The purpose of a D-8 committee in a third country is to promote the interests and identity of the D-8 Organization in the host countries and international organizations. The committee manages the D-8 Organization external relations with the host countries and international organizations.
14. The objectives of the committee is to enhance the D-8 Organization's visibility in the global arena, strengthen cooperation between the D-8 Organization with external parties, and promote the D-8 Organization's interest and identity in the respective host country to support the D-8 Organization's effort to improve its position in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, and provide a better standard of living.
15. Such objectives can be elaborated further as follows:
 - a. Raising awareness of all stakeholders in the host country or international organization towards the D-8 Organization, its objectives, interests, identity, and role toward the international order to the global audience.
 - b. Harnessing stronger partnerships with the host country and prominent institutions to broaden the opportunity of tapping resources for the benefit of the D-8 Organization.
 - c. Coordinating and cooperating effectively with third countries and relevant regional and international organizations to maximize the realization of the Organization's interests.

IV. PROCEDURES AND TIMELINE

16. The D-8 Commission may deliberate the present concept note during its 46th Session in Istanbul, 15-16 February 2023. If the D-8 Commission endorses the proposal, it will forward it to the D-8 Council for consideration during the Council's 21st Session in 2023.
17. Upon approval by the D-8 Council, the D-8 Secretary-General and the Chair of the D-8 Commission, through consultation with the Member States, will develop specific rules of procedures for the operationalization of a D-8 committee in a third country.
18. At the early stage, the D-8 committee in a third country may be established in countries and international organizations with which the D-8 has the strongest interest and interactions. The D-8 Secretariat envisions that, upon the approval by the D-8 Council, for this purpose, committees may be established in the following posts, among others:
 - a. Berlin, Germany, to foster cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, particularly the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).
 - b. Brussels, Belgium, for the European Union.
 - c. Geneva, Switzerland, for the United Nations Office in Geneva, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
 - d. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank.
 - e. New York, the United States, for the United Nations.
 - f. Rome, Italy, for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
 - g. Tokyo, Japan, to foster cooperation with Japan, particularly the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
 - h. Vienna, Austria, for the United Nations Office in Vienna, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and to foster cooperation with the Government of Austria, particularly Advantage Austria.
19. For the next step, other committees may be established in other countries and international organizations upon approval from the D-8 Council.

V. ACTIVITIES

20. A D-8 committee in a third country may conduct activities to support the objectives outlined in this concept note. Proposed activities may include:
 - a. Regular meetings and engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country or relevant departments of the international organizations to provide updates on the development of the D-8 Organization.
 - b. Joint seminars or workshops with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, National Chambers of Commerce, or other prominent institutions in the host country to further enhance the visibility of the D-8 Organization in the host country.

- c. Joint cultural activities in the host country's territory or premises of the international organizations, particularly to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the D-8 Organization every June.
- d. Engagement with local media and news agencies, such as the production of featurettes on D-8 Organization.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 21. The D-8 Secretariat views the establishment of the D-8 committees in third countries will contribute to the Organization's effort to enhance its visibility.
- 22. Therefore, the D-8 Secretariat recommends that the D-8 Commission and the D-8 Council consider the present proposal positively.

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PS

The suggestion that the Chair of the D8 should equally assume the position of Chair and coordinate the activities of the D8 Committee in third countries is commendable. Therefore, please do include this in the concept note and resubmit