

**Draft Report of the
3rd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation
Held virtually on 10th March, 2021**

The Third D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism was held virtually on 10th March, 2021. The meeting was chaired by the **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Culture, Nigeria, Her Excellency, Dr. Ifeoma igweze Anyanwutaku** and attended by Senior Officials and Heads of Delegations from the Member States. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item I- Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item II - Welcome Remarks by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Culture, Nigeria, Her Excellency, Dr. Ifeoma igweze Anyanwutaku

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Culture, Nigeria, Her Excellency, Dr. Ifeoma igweze Anyanwutaku, welcomed Members to the meeting and commended the efforts of the Senior Officials and encouraged the Member States to enlarge and deepen the existing collaboration in the tourism sector. Her statement is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item IV - Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General

The D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari delivered his opening statement and highlighted the importance of tourism cooperation among the Member States. He also urged the Member States to follow-up and implement the decisions taken at the Second Ministerial Meeting. His statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item V- Presentation on Nigeria's Tourism Prospects

The Nigerian delegate made a comprehensive presentation on the prospect of Nigerian Tourism. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

Agenda Item VI- Discussion on challenges of Tourism amidst COVID-19 pandemic: The Heads of Delegation of each Member State will in five minutes explain measures that could be adopted to promote Tourism amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

Heads of the Delegation from Member States gave detailed information and made presentations on the measures taken by their respective Governments to stem the tide of COVID-19.

The Presentations are attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item VII- Brief on the upcoming 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism Cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The delegate from Pakistan Mr. Malik Babur Javed, briefed the meeting on the arrangements for the fourth Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings that are scheduled to take place later this year in Islamabad. The date of the meeting will be communicated to the Secretariat in due course.

Agenda Item VIII- Date and Venue of the 4th D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation

The Honorable delegate from Pakistan volunteered to host the Fourth Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Islamabad in 2021 and encouraged the Member States to participate at the highest level.

Agenda Item IX- Any Other Business

The World Tourism Forum Institute made a presentation on cooperation with D-8 Member States on Tourism

Agenda Item X- Consideration and adoption of the Report of the 3rd D-8 Senior Officials Tourism Meeting.

The report of the Third D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism was considered and adopted.

Closing of the Meeting.

The Secretary-General thanked the participants for their tireless efforts to come up with the excellent outcomes and praised the Chairman for competently handling the proceedings of the Meeting.

He also appreciated and thanked the Government of Nigeria for the Excellent proceeding of the Meeting.

In the same vein, the Chairman commended the delegates for their beneficial contributions and expressed his satisfaction with the outcomes of the meetings. Her also urged them to ensure effective implementation of the decisions taken and to follow-up on outstanding issues.

The Delegates also expressed their gratitude and thanked the chairman for excellently presiding over the meeting and the Nigerian Government for competently handling the proceedings of the meeting. They also praised the role of the Secretariat in preparing the documents of the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned on 10 March 2021.

**Secretary General’s Statement for the 3rd Senior Officials Meeting
on Tourism Cooperation to be held on
Wednesday 10th March, 2021**

**The Honourable Minister of information and Culture of Nigeria,
Alhaji Lai Mohammed,
The Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to warmly welcome you to this important gathering of the senior officials of tourism. Permit me to start by thanking the Federal Republic of Nigeria in general and the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture in particular for graciously hosting this meeting, albeit virtually.

This is the first meeting we are having since November 2019 when we had the Second Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting on Tourism Cooperation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

As we settle down to deliberate on pertinent issues relating to the tourism track of sectoral cooperation, I wish to bring to the fore the need to implement to the latter the Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism Cooperation, Crescent Moon Initiative and Kuala Lumpur Declaration that were adopted at the aforementioned meeting.

As a matter of fact, we are supposed to render a kind of performance evaluation report at this meeting, if not for the debilitating COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted progress not only in the tourism sector but in virtually all fields of human endeavors.

**Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Tourism is one of the most affected sectors by the consequential adversities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations World Tourism Organization estimates an expected fall of tourist arrivals between 20 per cent to 30 per cent could translate into a **decline in international tourism receipts (exports) of between US\$300-450 billion**, almost one third of the US\$ 1.5 trillion generated in 2019. Taking into account past market trends, this would mean that between **five and seven-years' worth of growth will be lost** to COVID-19. Putting this into context, UNWTO also pointed out that in 2009, on the back of the global economic crisis, international tourist arrivals declined by four per cent, while the SARS outbreak led to a decline of just 0.4 per cent in 2003.

I would like to re-emphasize that the tourism sector is an important sectoral track of cooperation for the D-8 Organization. The sector, along with the hospitality industry, is the biggest employer of labor and thus a veritable source of decent jobs for our teeming population. It is also a money spinner as it facilitates the inflow of streams of much needed foreign exchange to our national economies. Tourism also enhances global harmony and international understanding.

**Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

This is why we are working closely with the World Tourism Forum Institute (WTFI) in order to improve our tourism products, increase tourist arrivals and augment tourism receipts especially in the post-pandemic era. The institute will help our Member States to improve their tourism sectors by benchmarking them against best-in-class destinations around the globe. It will also aggressively market D-8 countries as exceptionally nice destinations with attractive tourism offers and products.

I also believed that the partnership between the two institutions will facilitate the accomplishment of the objectives set out in The Crescent

Moon Initiative and the D-8 Comprehensive Tourism Roadmap, including the steady flow of streams of investments from across the world. The tourism sector is seen by both sides to be an enabler of prosperity, harmony, and unity among the D-8 Member States.

**Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Secretariat, in line with the decisions of the second ministerial meeting, activated the two tabs under the D-8 Tourism portal on the D-8 Website, and requested the Member States to submit the lists of the focal points and tourism training academies to upload the information on the D-8 Tourism Portal.

I hereby reiterate my request to the remaining Member States to please register on the aforementioned portal and submit the list of their focal points in order to advance the agenda of our cooperation.

With regard to my new initiative of the D-8 Designated Airport in each Member State in order to promote people to people and Business to Business contacts as well as tourism and travel facilitation among all Member States with a view to later on establish a D-8 Airports Association that would provide Airport facilities and services for the D-8 citizens, I would request your kind and valuable support on this matter and I am really thankful to the Government of Pakistan for nominating the Jinnah International Airport Karachi as the D-8 Designated Airport. That make it three now including Sabiha Gokcen Airport, Istanbul and Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja, Nigeria. We hope to have designated airports in all Member States not only to increase the volume of bilateral economic activity but also to showcase our Organization to the world.

**The Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Our aim is for information and ideas to be shared, best practices to be exchanged and streams of investments to flow across political borders of the Member States with fluid ease so that D-8 can compete favorably with best-in-class tourist destinations around the world. It is also our aim to use tourism to increase the inflow of foreign exchange and create millions of new jobs for our people.

I also wish to share that initiation of the D-8 Payment Card System that will be launched during the Summit will provide a tool for travelers to use for business transactions within the Member States.

The D-8 Secretariat is also working on several projects on media activities of the Organization. One of these important initiatives is the D-8 Entrepreneur Development and Media Alliance (D-8 EDMA) which is a platform to facilitate the exchange of news and information particularly in the social, economic and entrepreneurial spheres; feature and promote the public and private sector's presence amongst the D-8 Member States; and establish, develop and facilitate a functional network of interested media agencies for effective engagements.

The D-8 EDMA Platform will have two main sections which are EDMA TV and Entrepreneur Development and include News, Programmes, Adverts, Webinars, Online Coaching and Workshops. The sources for creating the platform and content will be the D-8 Secretariat, D-8 Member States, D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), National News Agencies and relevant authorities of the Member States and interested parties from private sectors of Member States. It is to be located in the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

However, the projected benefits of this initiative/platform are increased visibility and image for the D-8, prominent role for the D-8 CCI, promotion of the interests of the D-8 Member States and promotion of investment and business opportunities in the D-8 Member States.

We believe that the last tourism meeting which was held in Kuala Lumpur started a new beginning for the D-8 tourism development agenda. It is imperative for the D-8 members to remain focused and adopt innovative solutions in our efforts to unlock greater value for the sustainability and continued progress of the tourism industry.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and glorious outcomes.

I thank you for your attention.

List of the Participants for 3rd Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism

COUNTRY	Name and Designation	Contact
Bangladesh	<p>Mr. Javed Ahmed Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Tourism Board</p> <p>Mr. Ahmed Tanmay Tahsin Ratu Assistant Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Jbdahmed63@gmail.com +880t7L4463589</p> <p>ahmed. ratul @mofa.gov.bd +8801677145391</p>
Iran	<p>Mr. Mohammad Ghasemi, Director General for Tourism for Marketing and Promotion, Ministry of Culture, heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (MCTH)</p> <p>Ms. Nasrin Azimipناه, Head of Specialized Organizations Group, International Affairs Bureau (MCTH)</p>	<p>daneshmoh@yahoo.com</p>
Indonesia	<p>Ms. Ika Kusama Permana Sari, Acting Director for Inter-Institutional Relations, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia</p> <p>Mr. Suradin, Assistant Dputy Director for Multilateral Cooperation</p> <p>Mr. Iman Setya Officer for Multilateral Cooperation</p>	<p>ika@indonesia.travel</p> <p>mail.antarlembaga@gmail.com</p>

Malaysia	Waiting for the list of the names of the participants	
Nigeria	<p>Dr. Ifeoma Igweze Anyanwutaku, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of information, Tourism and Culture of the Republic Nigeria</p> <p>Mr. Zayyad Abdussalam, Director, Global Institutions Unit, Minsitry of Foreign Affairs</p>	zayyadmfa101@gmail.com
Pakistan	<p>Mr. Malik Babur Javed, Manager (Publicity and Promotion) Pakistan Tourism Development Board</p>	mmcdm@tourism.gov.pk 0092-3361006532
Turkey	<p>Ms. Başak Önsal Demir, Coordinator for Multilateral Relations</p> <p>Mr. Saadet Bahar Çetinkaya, Expert</p>	basak.onsal@ktb.gov.tr
Secretariat	<p>Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Secretary-General</p> <p>And team</p>	ea.bilal@developing8.org

Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
(Federal Ministry of Information and Culture)
3rd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation

10th March, 2021

Time: 900hrs – 1100hrs (Nigeria)

(Virtual)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda;
3. Welcome Remarks by Lai Mohammed Hon. Minister of Information and Culture;
4. Opening remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General;
5. Presentation on Nigeria's Tourism prospects
6. Discussion by Member States on challenges of Tourism amidst COVID-19 pandemic;
7. Brief on the upcoming 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism Cooperation in Pakistan;
8. Any Other Business;
9. Date and venue of the 4th D-8 Senior Officials Meeting;
10. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the 3rd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting.

Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
(Federal Ministry of Information and Culture)
3rd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation
10th March, 2021
Time: 900hrs – 1100hrs (Nigeria)

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

- 9:00 hrs. Agenda Item 1- Opening of the meeting:
The meeting will officially commence at 9:00 hrs. GMT;**
- 9:05 hrs. Agenda Item II- Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda;**
- 9:10 hrs. Agenda Item III - Welcome Remarks by His Excellency, Lai Mohammed,
Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Nigeria;**
- 9:20 hrs. Agenda Item IV - Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General;**
- 9:30 hrs. Agenda Item V- Presentation on Nigeria’s Tourism Prospects;**
- 9:35 hrs. Agenda Item VI- Discussion on challenges of Tourism amidst COVID-19 pandemic:
The Heads of Delegation of each Member State will in 5 minutes explain
measures that could be adopted to promote Tourism amidst the COVID-19
pandemic;**
- 10:25 hrs. Agenda Item VII- Brief on the upcoming 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism
Cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;**
- 10:30 hrs. Agenda Item VIII- Date and Venue of the 4th D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism
Cooperation;**
- 10:35 hrs. Agenda Item IX- Any Other Business;
Presentation by World Tourism Forum Institute**
- 10:40 hrs. Agenda Item X- Consideration and adoption of the Report of the 3rd D-8 Senior
Officials Tourism Meeting.**
- 10:45 hrs. Closing of the Meeting.**

**Concept Note for the
3rd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation scheduled
to hold on 10th March, 2021 in Abuja, Nigeria**

INTRODUCTION:

Before COVID-19, travel and tourism had grown to be one of the important sectors in the global economy that supported in providing employment to so many people worldwide. Unfortunately, in the tourism industry is one of the hardest hit sectors as a result of outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and it was projected that many countries including the D-8 countries would experience huge socio-economic loss as a result of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health. The socio-economic impacts of the pandemic have made about 3.3 billion global workforce to either lose their jobs or on the verge of losing their jobs into extreme poverty, while the number of malnourished people had increased by more than 100 million.

D-8 tourism cooperation is one of the six priority areas of cooperation in the D-8. The first meeting held in Tehran, in May 2008 was to promote tourism cooperation among the D-8 Member States. The 2nd D-8 Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism cooperation was held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2019

All over the world, countries are working to finance a broad range of policy measures to soften the impact of plummeting tourism revenues on households and businesses. Leveraging on the opportunities and challenges of the pandemic, the D-8 countries need to align their national tourism plans and strategies to the current and post COVID-19 protocols and on the basis of this, the tourism industry was built into the recovery plan of member states; protocols were introduced with a view to ensuring that the near collapse of the sector is not sustained.

According to the World Bank's report, the D8 countries, with the population of nearly one billion, accounts for over 14% of the world population and more than 3.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) in the world. With this, it is obvious that here is a wide room for the development of international tourism activities. Nevertheless, the D-8 countries still need to address a

number of challenges that limit the development of tourism sector such as lack of proper infrastructure, fragmented standards, and weak destination and industry development strategies. Against this backdrop, the tourism industry in the D-8 countries needs a wide approach such as the upgrading and expansion of their tourism system and the improvement of the destinations through developing of infrastructure and aggressive marketing in order to reach its full potential.

Within the framework of the Senior Officials meeting, members would discuss issues relating to tourism development in member States especially as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on socio-economic life of the people. The meeting would therefore develop efficient strategies that would provide substantial benefit for members in order to gain more share from the global tourism market.

OBJECTIVE:

The general objectives of the meeting are:

- a) To bring together tourism experts of member States to strengthen their capacities and develop effective strategies for the post Covid-19 tourism era,
- b) To provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and best practices and to facilitate cooperation opportunities; and
- c) To provide insights to better understand different aspects of tourism development.

METHODOLOGY:

The meeting will be conducted virtually and discussions will be delivered by competent tourism experts from the relevant authorities of the D-8 Member States.

PARTICIPANTS:

Representatives of Ministries of Tourism, Tourism Boards and other relevant national institutions of the D-8 member states will participate in the meeting.

TIME AND DELIVERY MODE:

The meeting will be held virtually on 10th March 2021 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) through a video conferencing platform.

LANGUAGE:

The meeting will be conducted only in English language.

Fascinating Nigeria:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15W4NhjBAGObJjXoC7iY8WVy50DpALLYh/view>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ok6Ooi_G1lopNfwt daarN34uCb-eEsiD/view

Lagos Tourism:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qSwVvCowaQzzlj6OawtXxq8HBFBeVORQ/view>

Tour Nigeria:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11efK9dNovnuwg6d69lqjjnCpPXBMFHy/view>