

REPORT
OFFICIAL VISIT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR IMAM, THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL, ATTENDING THE 2ND HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON FOOD SECURITY, THE 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY, AND THE 9TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

DOHA, QATAR, 1-3 OCTOBER 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

1. H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General (D-8 SG), paid an official visit to Doha, Qatar, to participate in i) the 6th General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), ii) the 2nd High-Level Forum (HLF) on Food Security, and iii) the 9th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Doha, Qatar, on 1-3 October 2023. During the visit, Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations, accompanied the D-8 SG.
2. The D-8 SG's participation in those series of events was upon the invitation from the Director-General of the IOFS and the Secretary-General of the OIC, based on the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the D-8 and those two organizations.
3. The D-8 SG also signed the Joint Action Plan on Agriculture and Food Security between the D-8 and IOFS as a continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Institutional Cooperation between the D-8 and IOFS, signed on 17 March 2023.
4. Among the highlights from the visit are:
 - a. The adoption of the "Doha Declaration Towards Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Member States" by the OIC.
 - b. H.E. Ambassador Askar Mussinov was elected as the new Director-General of the IOFS.
 - c. The D-8 Secretary-General delivered opening remarks at the Sub-Four 1 of the 2nd HLF on Food Security.
 - d. The signing of the Joint Action Plan between the D-8 and IOFS on Agriculture and Food Security for 2024 – 2026.

II. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

A. The 6th General Assembly of the IOFS

5. The IOFS organized its 6th General Assembly in Doha, Qatar, on 3 October 2023. Representatives from 40 IOFS Member States and 13 observers, including the D-8 Secretariat, attended the Assembly. The 6th General Assembly of the IOFS was organized in conjunction with the 9th Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Food Security, held in Doha on 1-2 October 2023.

6. The 6th General Assembly of the IOFS also marks the chairmanship handover from the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Mr. Abdel Monem Belati, the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulics, and Maritime Fisheries of Tunisia, to H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Turki Al Subaie, the Minister of Municipality of Qatar.

7. Notable outcomes from the 6th General Assembly, among others:

- a. The admission of four new IOFS Member States, namely, Gabon, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen. Those four new members signed the IOFS Statute during the OIC's 9th Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Food Security on 2 October 2023.
- b. The General Assembly adopted 12 resolutions, enumerating commitments and proposed programs for the IOFS in its effort to make an impact on the global stage in the pursuit of food security.
- c. The General Assembly also elected H.E. Ambassador Askar Musinov as the new Director-General of IOFS, succeeding H.E. Prof. Yerlan Bidaulet, who just concluded his term of office. H.E. Ambassador Askar Mussinov, a Kazakh diplomat, was previously the Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science and Technology.
- d. The Qatari Government granted US\$ 2 million to IOFS to strengthen the organization's programs.
- e. The 7th General Assembly of the IOFS will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2024.

B. The 2nd High-Level Forum on Food Security

8. The IOFS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality of Qatar, organized the 2nd High-Level Forum (HLF) on Food Security in Doha, Qatar, on 1-3 October 2023, at the margin of its 6th General Assembly.

9. The HLF consisted of the following sub-themes:

- a. **Media Panel.** The panel highlighted the crucial role of media in ensuring food security. The panel also emphasized the integral relationship between media and food security, including harnessing stronger relationships among media outlets, think tanks, international organizations, and government institutions. The Panel also identified challenges within food systems and issued recommendations to enhance the media's role in food security.

- b. **Sub-Forum 1 on Engaging Civil Society against Food Insecurity.** The Sub-Forum discussed the importance of civil society organization’s involvement in combating food insecurity. Topics discussed during this Sub-Forum include gender empowerment in agriculture, urbanization’s impact on food security, and the role of youth in shaping the future of food security.
- c. **Sub-Forum 2: Advancing Agri-tech for Sustainable Food Security.** The Sub-Forum discussed the crucial role of technology in advancing agricultural productivity and food supply stability. The Sub-Forum discussed topics, among others, on water management technologies, organic farming, emerging technologies in food production, and policy framework in agri-tech.
- d. **Sub-Forum 3: IFPA – Enhancing Intra-OIC Food Markets.** The Sub-Forum discussed strategies and measures to strengthen food markets within the OIC Member States. Particular emphasis was given to enhancing trade and cooperation to support more robust food security. The Sub-Forum also discussed national food sector development, investments in the food industry, and agri-food projects across the OIC countries.

10. The D-8 Secretary-General delivered opening remarks at Sub-Forum 1 on Engaging Civil Society Against Food Insecurity. He underlined the crucial role played by civil society organizations in pursuing food security. They can bridge the gap between the public sector and the grassroots level. Against such background, he underscored the importance of harnessing close collaboration, involvement, and engagement with civil society organizations and promoting public-private partnerships.

C. The 9th Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Development and Food Security of the OIC

11. The OIC organized its 9th Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Development and Food Security (MC) of the OIC in Doha on 2 October 2023. A Preparatory Meeting at the Senior Officials level was held on 1 October 2023, preceding the Ministerial Conference. The Minister of Municipality of Qatar chaired the 9th MC.

12. The 9th MC adopted the “Doha Declaration Towards Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Member States”. The Doha Declaration underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation within the framework of the OIC in food security and agricultural development to build more resilient food systems and achieve sustainable development goals through exchanging knowledge and best practices.

13. The 9th MC also identified the need to establish the necessary financial infrastructure and legal frameworks to enhance the financial inclusion of farmers. Such support will be channeled through providing access to financial products and services, including Islamic economic models.

14. The 9th MC also promotes stronger cooperation and collaboration with relevant OIC sub-organizations through joint studies. The Meeting also envisaged the development of a business model and cooperation framework in contract farming and assessing the needs and capabilities of the OIC Member States.

D. The Signing of the Joint Action Plan between the D-8 and IOFS

15. The D-8 SG and H.E. Masoud Al-Marri, the Chairman of the IOFS Executive Board, signed the Joint Action Plan between the D-8 and IOFS on Agricultural Development and Food Security at the margin of the 6th General Assembly of the IOFS in Doha on 1 October 2023.

16. The Joint Action Plan, prepared by the two Organizations in close consultation with their respective members, consists of 12 programs and activities to be jointly organized from 2024 to 2026.

17. The Joint Action Plan supplements the Memorandum of Understanding between the D-8 and IOFS, which the two organizations signed on 17 March 2023. The Plan programs listed in the Plan will serve as key performance indicators to measure the MoU effectiveness.

18. The Joint Action Plan is attached.

III. CONCLUSION

19. The D-8 SG's official visit to Doha has achieved its intended objectives, i.e., to strengthen collaboration with other international organizations to support the attainment of the D-8's objectives, in this particular regard, in the agricultural and food security sectors, which are among the D-8 priority areas as enumerated in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030.

20. The signed Joint Action Plan will also be useful in approaching other international organizations with financial resources to establish triangular cooperation to execute the listed programs.

21. Another added value from the visit is the increased visibility of the D-8 vis-à-vis a broader set of international organizations who attended the IOFS and OIC events in Doha.



Joint Action Plan between

D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and Islamic Organization of Food Security (IOFS)

2024 - 2026



A. Background

In follow-up to the MoU signed in Nouakchott, Republic of Mauritania, on 17 March 2023, the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and Islamic Organization of Food Security (IOFS), hereinafter individually referred to as the “Party” and collectively referred to as the “Parties”, decided to establish a Joint Action Plan on four (04) specific Areas of Cooperation, namely:

1. Food Security Governance
2. Aquaculture and fisheries
3. Climate Smart Agriculture
4. Agri-Trade and Investment Promotion

B. Commitment

1. The Parties intend to promote co-operating and other forms of joint participation in the aforementioned areas of cooperation through joint activities in form of conferences, capacity building or other formats mutually agreed upon, as mean to celebrate their partnership in upcoming years.
2. The Parties intend, for common goals achievement, to assist in establishing contacts with other international, national, and state organizations in the agricultural sphere that are strategic Partners of either Party in the agreed areas of cooperation.
3. The Parties intend to promote systematic institutional cooperation – from broadening channels of information exchange, research, analysis and contacts to collaboration on key events; joint monitoring and communications to operationalize MOU and Action plan. The list of countries participating in the different events will be decided based on mutual understanding.

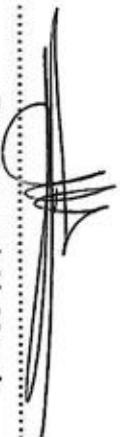
4. The Parties have agreed upon a Joint Action Plan and confirmed their commitment for realization of the same, which remains a live document. The Parties undertake regular consultations to review the progress of activities in the Joint Action Plan and update it accordingly. Any amendment to the Joint Action Plan could be made upon agreeing on the working level without necessity to sign any additional agreements.

Signed in Doha, the State of Qatar, on 1 October 2023 in Doha, in two copies in English, both equally authentic.

For D-8

For IOFS


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Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary General


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Dr. Masoud Al-Marri
Chairman of IOFS Executive Board

A. Joint Activities

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
1. Food Security Governance					
Responsible Officers		For IOFS: Name: Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek Position: Program Manager Email: b.arystanbek@iofs.org.kz		For D8 Name: Mr. Ahmar Ismail Position: Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues Email: ahmar.ismail@developing8.org	
1.	International Conference on Agricultural Trade Policies: Impact on Food Security and Promotion of Intra-OIC Trade	The activity aims to provide the analytical overview of trade of agricultural products among OIC member countries and discuss the potential ways and means of increasing the volumes of international trade flows in agricultural products within the OIC area, based on a review of the performance, policies and practices of the member states in this domain. At the outcomes of the event, certain policy interventions and recommendations are to be developed and submitted for member countries as proposals, and as proposals for resolutions of OIC CFM meetings.	tbc	The activity shall contribute to increasing the intra-OIC trade of agricultural products and minimizing the existing limitations on trade among OIC member countries.	Necessitates the proper discussion and involvement of other stakeholders, such as ISDB, COMCEC, etc.
2.	Training on Peri-Urban Agriculture			Peri urban supply chain	D8RCAFS/Policy Chair

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
3.	International Conference on Food Security Governance: Lesson learned from Member States of IOFS and D8. (BD)	The conference is to exchange views on lessons learned from all member states in managing the food crises during the Covid-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. The Conference may draw policy recommendations focusing on collaboration to ensure food security.	TBC/Bangladesh		Ministry of Food of Bangladesh
4.	Crop Germplasm Exchange (BD_)	Promoting exchange in i) newly developed high-yielding varieties with short duration and heat tolerance, ii) fruits and vegetables that are adaptable to tropical and subtropical climates, and iii) pulses and oilseeds that are short duration and stress tolerant.	TBC/TBD		Proposed by Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh
II. Aquaculture and fisheries					
Responsible Officers		For IOFS: Name: Ms. Amina Akhmetzhanova Position: Program Manager Email: amina@iofs.org.kz	For D8 Name: Mr. Ahmar Ismail Position: Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues Email: ahmar.ismail@developing8.org		
5.	Training of Trainers on Design and Development of Aquaponics Systems	Aquaponics is a modern and environmentally friendly food production method that combines the recirculating aquaculture system and organic plant breeding (hydroponics). It allows to enhance aquaculture productivity in an environmentally responsible manner, as the technology uses up to 85% less water than conventional agricultural and fish farming techniques.	TBC/Türkiye	USD 30,000	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye (TBC), INWRDAM (TBC), FAO (TBC)

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
6.	Training for Trainers in Marketing of Fisheries Product (ID)	The proposed Training of Trainers will cover all major aspects of fish and plant cultivation in aquaponics through lectures on the most recent aquaponics technologies with a practical focus, discussions, and a field trip. The Training for Trainers program in the marketing of fisheries products targeting small and medium enterprises. This program is aimed at improving the entrepreneurship expertise and knowledge of SMEs.	TBC/Indonesia	TBD	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia/Ministry of Agriculture
III. Climate Smart Agriculture					
Responsible Officers			For IOFS: Name: Mr. Abdelaziz Hojjaj Position: Program Manager Email: abdelaziz@iofs.org.kz	For D8 Name: Mr. Ahmar Ismail Position: Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues Email: ahmar.ismail@developing8.org	
7.	Organic farming and Salinity in the Sahel	Develop agricultural strategies to ensure sustainable food security in the face of climate change and collaborate organic farming and Smart agriculture. Participants will benefit from technical training on new practices to increase agricultural production and to deal with salinity without affecting the climate.	September 2023, Mauritania	The first phase of the project will be organized in Niger from 06 to 10 March 2023, the second phase is planned in Mauritania in September 2023 and a workshop will be organized in Organic farming and salinity in agriculture, the project covers the countries of the Sahel and the West Africa, including Nigeria . The total workshop budget does not exceed 90K USD. The	COMSTECH ICESCO CILSS

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
8.	Precision agriculture to face climate change in agriculture	Precision agriculture is a concept for managing agricultural plots that considers this intra-plot heterogeneity to modulate crop interventions. It lies in the desire to use new technologies, such as GPS positioning, sensors on board agricultural machinery, satellite images and micro-computing. These methods and tools are an important approach to enabling agriculture to be more environmentally friendly while remaining productive. They also make it possible to better understand and analyze the physiological needs of crops and to develop decision-making tools for the farmer to reduce the impact of climate.	TBC, Research Project	cost will be shared equally between the partners The project is under study, D-8 organization contributes to feasibility and technical studies for the implementation of the project. Climate smart agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to improve agricultural productivity, resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. UAF has a track record of developing and promoting innovative agricultural technologies and practices with CSA-focused interventions to address the challenges of climate change and food security. D8CAFS has pioneered precision agriculture in Pakistan. The multidisciplinary Precision Agriculture Team includes engineers, computer scientists and data scientists who work together to design procedures, tools and technologies for efficient utilization of	COMSTECH ICESCO CILSS D8CAFS/PAAL

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
9.	Genome Editing		Training Program (Tentative date May 2024)	D8CAFS has the state-of-the-art infrastructure as well as expertise on genome editing (GE). The center is utilizing the latest technique of CRISPR/Cas for genetic improvement of crops as well as its application in animal health. Two national level training programs have already been offered by the center on this aspect which will be cascaded further to D8 member states.	D8CAFS/NCGE
10.	Training on Sustainable Water Management	Water management has been one of the crucial issues in agriculture, not only for irrigation purposes but in supporting the livelihood of smallholders.	TBC/TBD		Requested by Bangladesh.
11.	Joint Research and Development on Climate Smart Agriculture	The development of R&D in stress tolerance, climate-smart agriculture, good agricultural practices (GAP), safe food production, remote sensing and precision agriculture.	TBC/TBD		Requested by Bangladesh
IV. Agri-Trade and Investment Promotion					
Responsible Officers		For IOFS: Name: Mr. Talgat Kupishev Position: Program Manager Email: talgat@iofs.org.kz	For D8 Name: Mr. Ahmar Ismail Position: Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues Email: ahmar.ismail@developing8.org		

No	Activity	Outline	Date/Venue	Contribution	Partners/Remarks
12.	International Conference on Investment Opportunities in Agriculture	<p>The conference is to identify the potential of establishing agro-processing industries, the development of farm machinery for smallholders, mainstreaming vertical agriculture, and creating support for renewable energy for agriculture. (BD)</p> <p>The conference is also to promote trade in priority agricultural commodities, such as potatoes and processed products, tropical fruits and vegetables, and jute and its related products. (BD)</p> <p>The conference could also promote cooperation on fertilizers, including the development of organic fertilizers. (BD)</p>		<p>Agriculture R&D is under-invested both in public and private investment. The conference will invite papers with guidelines for new models for sustainable investment in agriculture for the private sector through public private partnerships.</p>	<p>D8CAFS/Policy Chair</p>