

Report of
Third Board of Trustees Meeting of D-8 International University

9 October 2023

D-8 International University hosted the 3rd Board of Trustees Meeting of D-8 International University in person on 9 October 2023, Hamadan, Iran. Delegates from D-8 Secretariat, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, D-8 International University, and Bu-Ali Sina University attended the meeting. People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Indonesia, and Federal Republic of Nigeria participated online. The list of the participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Session

The Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran and Chair of the meeting, H. E. *Prof. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol* delivered his welcome statement. The text is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome remarks by the Secretary General of D-8 Secretariat

Secretary General of D-8 Secretariat, H. E. *Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam* delivered his welcome remarks. The text is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3 – Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting considered and adopted the agenda as attached in **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4 – Report by the Chancellor of D-8 International University & Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Chancellor of D-8 International University delivered his report. The report is attached as **Annex V**.

Agenda Item 5 – Statement by Ministers / Heads of Delegations & Chancellor of the Founding University

Ministers / Heads of Delegations delivered their statements. The texts are attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item 6 – Consideration and Adoption of the issues

The meeting considered and adopted the following issues for D-8 International University:

- a. D-8 member states shall recognize D-8 International University and the academic qualifications, including the degrees issued by the University;
- b. Tuition decreases;
- c. Item 2 of Article 6 of the statute is modified as the following: “The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the ministers of higher education or highest officials

from member states in charge of higher education, or their official representatives” and item 6 of Article 6 is omitted. Therefore, the number of items in Article 6 will be 6;

- d. Member states shall nominate one distinguished university as a focal point to follow up the issues related to D-8 International University;
- e. Each member state shall nominate and grant scholarship to at least 5 students to study at D-8 International University;
- f. With the cooperation of the member states, D-8 International University shall establish disciplines of literature and languages of the member states;
- g. Agreeing to transfer the ceiling amount of 50 billion Iranian Rials from the unspent balance of the budget of previous years in order to support and develop university activities to carry out repairs and purchase office equipment and supplies.

Agenda Item 7 – Adoption of the Report

The Ministers / Heads of Delegations considered and adopted the Report of the 3rd Board of Trustees meeting of D-8 International University.

Agenda Item 8 – Date and venue of the 4th Board of Trustees meeting of D-8 International University

The Meeting agreed that the 4th Board of Trustees meeting of D-8 International University will be held in 2025. It was adopted that the country that is the chair of the focal points shall host the BoT meeting; consequently, the host shall change every two years. Therefore, Egypt will host the next BoT meeting in 2025.

Agenda Item 9 – Closing Remarks

The Chairman expressed his deep appreciation and immense gratitude to all the delegates for their productive discussions and commended the glorious outcome of the deliberations.

The Third Board of Trustees of D-8 International University was adjourned on 9 October 2023.

This Report will be communicated to the D-8 Secretariat and will be circulated by the Secretariat.

**Statement of H.E. Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam, D-8
Secretary-General on the Occasion of
The 3rd D-8 International-University Board
of Trustees Meeting, Hamedan, Iran
9 October 2023**

**Your Excellency, the Minister of Science, Research and
Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran,**

**Your Excellencies Ministers of Education/Higher
Education of the D-8 Member States,**

Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States,

The Chancellor of Bu-Ali Sina University,

The Chancellor of the D-8 International University,

Distinguished Academics,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored, as the D-8 Secretary-General, and as a Member of the Board of Trustees D-8 International University, to address you all today. I am equally honored to participate, for the first time, in this Board's Meeting, here in the City of Hamedan, the resting place of the prominent Persian Polymath and a great philosopher of his time.

Before I proceed further, please join me in welcoming the new Honourable Minister of Education of Nigeria, Professor Mamman Tahir, who is participating at this meeting, virtually. Professor Tahir, Honorable Minister of Education, I want to thank you most sincerely for finding time to be part of this occasion.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

by the President, H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. We look forward to working you to achieve the objectives of D-8 Organization.

I also want to use this opportunity to thank all administrative staff of Bu-Ali Sina University for their dedication to the university's growth. Your collective efforts played a role in forming our university.

My appreciation also goes to the Ministry of Science and Technology of Iran for their unwavering commitment towards making the D-8 International University operational.

I commend the University's Secretariat for organizing the 4th Focal Points Meeting on 2 October 2023. Those meetings are capable of strengthening cooperation through university and

student exchanges, thus enabling Member States to benefit maximally.

**Distinguished Members of the Board of Trustees,
Honourable Ministers,**

We must reflect on the journey that has brought us to this pivotal moment. As we know, the idea of the D-8 University was envisaged under the 2008-2018 D-8 Decennial Roadmap.

The Roadmap underlined the “promotion of cooperation in science and technology with the aim of strengthening cooperation through the establishment of research centers of excellence such as D-8 University”.

Six years ago, during the 9th D-8 Summit on 20 October 2017, the Iranian Government was invited to prepare the modalities for the D-8 International University. Upon the University's establishment, the Leaders encouraged the Member States to utilize it for the development of both their human and material resources. Along the line, the D-8 University is now equipped with its Statute and Working Modalities.

Distinguished Academics, Members of the Board of Trustees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For D-8 University to materialize its noble goals, Member States must increase their economic and non-monetary support for this great institution. In this regard, I would like to state that four immediate issues must be achieved for the D8 University to attain the objectives for which it was established:

First. The Member States' accreditation of D-8 International University and its academic degrees is crucial.

Accreditation is a form of validation and quality assurance.

Once the D-8 University is accredited, it signifies that this institution meets certain educational standards and criteria.

This recognition would enhance the University's credibility and reputation. Furthermore, an accredited D-8 University is more likely to engage easily in research collaborations and partnerships with other institutions. As the Secretary- General of the D-8 Organization, and a member of the Board of Trustees of this University, I appeal for your support in expediting the long-awaited accreditation process.

Secondly. The University need to institute scholarship and fellowship programs for its students. Scholarships and fellowship are not only investments in individuals, but also in our collective progress, and shared prosperity. In addition, such scholarship and fellowship will promote collaboration, innovation, and diplomacy, and ultimately lead to stronger, more developed and cohesive D-8 Organization. With this model, the D-8 University can facilitate student mobility and faculty exchanges across D-8 countries.

Three. The University must introduce sandwich programs to enable students to complete their studies in various universities. Through the D-8 University's network, students from D-8 countries can access the programs of 13 disciplines in 6 universities in Iran and Malaysia. We must get other D-8 Member States to key in.

Fourth. Pooling resources. For the University to become a result-oriented Research Centre, it must centralize its expertise and resources. It must also host regular conferences, seminars, and workshops that brings together experts, policymakers from the member states and beyond.

Such effort is necessary to promote cross-border research initiatives that will enable the member states confront some of the growing challenges of our time, such as, climate change, disaster management, information and communication technology renewable energy, environmental conservation and digital information.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I want to say that I am confident that the D-8 University will play a central role in human resources development of our Member States. I must admit that this may not come without challenges. However, I am optimistic that with our shared commitment and dedication, we will continue to make significant contributions for effective functioning of D-8 University.

I look forward to the D-8 University that will become a platform for materializing the triple helix model of innovation, which is to form a set of interactions between academia (University), industry, and government to foster economic and social development.

To finally conclude, I want to, once again, thank all our Member States for their unwavering commitment and support for the D-8 University project. While I look forward to productive discussions and decisions, at this Third Board of Trustees Meeting, let us continue to inspire and empower the 'leaders of tomorrow.'

Thank you.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Speech by Dr. Zolfigol, Minister of Science, Research, and Technology

Monday, 17/7/1402

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Honorable ministers and chancellors, distinguished Secretary-General, members of the Board of Trustees, and esteemed guests,

As the Minister of Science, Research, and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I welcome your presence in the D-8 International University's third Board of Trustees Meeting. It is an honor to host you in the historical and beautiful city of Hamedan.

Today marks over four years since the first D-8 International University's Board of Trustees Meeting was held, and thus far Islamic Republic of Iran has been the host of two meetings of this university's Board of Trustees. First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that in Iran's thirteenth government, under the presidency of Dr. Raisi, cooperation with Islamic countries and developing nations is a priority and a key policy. D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation also holds a special and significant position within the framework of this policy. Six years ago, when the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology of Iran proposed the establishment of D-8 International University to the member states, and this proposal was approved by the ministers of these states, the main objective was to transform this university into a hub for capacity building for human resource development and student mobility among member states. The establishment of this international university, which today the world has only a few examples of, represents an

important capacity in the growing market of international students. Therefore, as the host country, Iran expects the D-8 member states to consider this university as a great asset for themselves and the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and recognize it as a university for themselves and their own students. I would like to emphasize that although D-8 University is located in the city of Hamedan, Iran, it is not an Iranian university and it belongs to the member states and nations, just as we are currently hosting the ministers and officials of the member states and the Secretary-General of D-8, all of whom are members of the D-8 International University's Board of Trustees. Consequently, the international nature and identity of this university, which is in fact a common spiritual asset of developing Muslim countries and nations, urge us to support the strengthening and development of D-8 International University as a multilateral heritage, separate from bilateral relations, possible considerations, and misunderstandings. I would like to draw your attention once again to Article 12 of the statute adopted by the member states in the first International University's Board of Trustees Meeting, which emphasizes: "Member states shall be obliged to contribute to the improvement of the international status of the University in the international academic community, especially their own academic community." The same Article of the statute states: "Member states shall be obliged to contribute to the international cooperation of the University, especially with their own academic and scientific institutions."

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The world is rapidly moving towards the establishment of universal educational standards in the field of higher education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is currently drafting a comprehensive convention to accredit higher education qualifications in member states. Prior to this convention, similar multilateral agreements have been made to accredit academic degrees in various parts of the world, all indicating countries' movement

towards increased mutual dependence in the field of education. In such a world, the developing Islamic countries must define their position in this process and establish a logical relationship with it. D-8 International University serves as a suitable venue and reference point for accreditation of academic degrees at a joint university level, serving as a guiding light, experience, and cornerstone of our collaboration in the broader context of accrediting educational and university degrees. This process will enhance the current contribution of these states to the global market of student and university mobility. As the Minister of Science, Research, and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am proud to announce that in addition to accrediting the academic degrees of D-8 University, which was done several years ago, Iran has consistently allocated a share to strengthen the University in the past years. Furthermore, I am delighted to inform you that the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran will grant 30 scholarships annually to students from D-8 member states in various fields of study. As proposed in the current meeting's agenda, Iran is interested in having D-8 member states contribute to the strengthening of the D-8 International University according to their capacities through reciprocal multilateral actions.

Respected colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

By accepting the responsibility of establishing and hosting this university, Iran has taken a significant step towards strengthening educational and university mobility among D-8 member states. As the Minister of Science, Research, and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I extend my hand of cooperation to D-8 member states to help us further strengthen this University. There is a not-so-long list of feasible tasks that we are confident all members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation possess the educational, scientific, and technological capabilities and capacities to accomplish.

First and foremost, the process of accrediting the University should be expedited. We request all D-8 member states to assist in the accreditation of academic and educational degrees and recognize the position of the University as a joint international university, thereby contributing to its enhancement and activities. Each member state has a specialized institution or agency to accredit and evaluate academic degrees, which can authenticate the University's academic degrees.

The next step is to familiarize the scientific and university communities of D-8 member states with D-8 International University and encourage these communities to engage in scientific, educational, and technological collaboration with this University. The respected Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the D8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, and the focal points of the member states play pivotal roles as intermediaries in this regard.

Signing memoranda of understanding for cooperation, launching joint academic programs and courses, and organizing scientific seminars and workshops in developing Muslim countries worldwide are among the activities that can be pursued in this direction.

In conclusion, I express my sincere appreciation for your influential presence in D-8 International University's third Board of Trustees Meeting, and I hope you spend good days and hours in Iran.

Mohammad Ali Zolfigol

Minister of Science, Research, and Technology

Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, I would like to welcome you all to the third D-8 International University Board of Trustees Meeting.

Achieving widespread and side effect-free development for humanity and the lives of all beings is an undeniable aspiration. Scientific cooperation forms the foundation for sustainable international cooperation. Universities play a central role in fostering scientific diplomacy and international collaboration. An institution such as D-8 International University, affiliated with an international organization, can fulfill an exceptional role in promoting scientific and technological cooperation among member nations as well as with other countries. This University should serve as a hub for nurturing experts and visionary thinkers with holistic perspectives to tackle global issues.

Now, I would like to provide a brief report about the fourth Focal Points Meeting held on 2 October 2023. The Meeting was chaired by the focal point of Bangladesh, and attended by the Chancellor of the D-8 International University, Director 1 of D-8 Secretariat, and the focal points of the member states. The following issues were adopted in the meeting which were then recommended to this 3rd BoT meeting for final adoption:

- a. According to Article 12 of the Statute, D-8 member states shall accredit D-8 International University and the academic degrees issued by the University;
- b. Tuition decrease;
- c. Item 2 of Article 6 of the statute is modified as the following: “The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the ministers of higher education or highest officials from member states in charge of higher

education, or their official representatives” and item 6 of Article 6 is omitted. Therefore, the number of items in Article 6 will be 6;

- d. Each member state shall nominate one distinguished university as a focal point to cooperate with D-8 International University;
- e. Each member state shall nominate and grant scholarships to at least 5 students to study at D-8 International University;
- f. With the cooperation of the member states, D-8 International University shall establish disciplines of literature and languages of the member states.
- g. Agreeing to transfer the ceiling amount of 50 billion Iranian Rials from the unspent balance of the budget of previous years in order to support and develop university activities to carry out repairs and purchase office equipment and supplies.

Based on the University's statute, general policies are approved by the Board of Trustees, and these decisions must be implemented. Various topics have been thoroughly examined during the Focal Points Meeting and have ultimately been approved by the Board of Trustees. Among these topics are the university's statute, internal rules of procedure, and the development of a network approach as a developmental model for the University.

The actions taken from the previous Board of Trustees to the present include:

1. The preparation of an independent building for the establishment of the University's headquarters.
2. Obtaining an international legal entity to recognize the University as a separate legal entity.
3. Obtaining the necessary approvals for admitting students in collaboration with other universities to issue joint degrees.

4. Holding webinars in different scientific international subjects with the collaboration of other universities and associations. For example, on September 27, 2023 we held a one-day webinar entitled “Environmental challenges and sustainable remediation strategies” with the collaboration of Jiroft University (Iran), Necmettin Erbakan University (Turkiye), Shahid Benazir Bhutto University (Pakistan), and the Iranian Chemical Society.
5. Signing memorandums of understanding with five leading Universities of Malaysia, including the following:
 - UM: Universiti Malaya
 - UKM: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
 - UPM: Universiti Putra Malaysia
 - UMPSA: Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al Sultan Abdullah
 - UiTMA: Universiti Teknologi MARA

Your Excellencies

Our major challenge lies in the lack of students. According to the Network Development Program and the agreements we have signed with various universities, we are fully prepared to admit students in all non-medical fields. Unfortunately, due to the university's lack of reputation and its absence from the list of recognized universities by member countries, we have not received many applicants for enrollment in the University, despite extensive outreach efforts.

Considering that this University belongs to all member states of the D-8 organization, we have been able to admit Iranian students. However, we have so far provided negative responses to Iranian applicants in order to maintain the ratio of students from member countries. The solution to resolve this issue is for member

states to nominate students for scholarships to study at this University, recognize the University's degree, and include the University in their list of reputable institutions. This University belongs to you, and given the Network Development Program and the fact that universities with which agreements have been signed are also reputable institutions, member countries can confidently add D-8 International University to their list of recognized universities without hesitation. The degree from this University is accepted by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology, and the University is included in the list of approved and accredited universities.

In the meetings of the board of trustees, it was recommended that each country shall nominate at least 5 students to study at D-8 International University and Iran will also give scholarships to 25 students from the member states. Regrettably, none of the member states has initiated scholarship programs. Apart from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran, there is no scholarship license. We expect the approval of the Board of Trustees to be implemented.

It is hoped that with the support of the member countries and the nomination of students, this problem of D-8 International University will be solved.

Ladies and Gentlemen

D-8 International University has vast scientific and cultural potential. We believe that by the establishment of this university and by gathering students from all of the D-8 member states in Hamedan, we promote and advance a sense of the D-8 community by bringing together the future generations of developing 8 countries.

All the expenses of D-8 International University are being paid by Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and Bu-Ali Sina University, which is the founding university. Your help and support will enhance the status of the University.

Last but not least I would like to thank all staff members of D-8 member state ministries, institutions, and D-8 Organization for their hard work in this time for making us able to establish this meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.



**3rd Board of trustees Meeting of the D-8
International University**

**Hamedan, Iran, 9 October 2023
Zoom platform
Time: 9:30 am (Iran Standard Time)**

Draft Speech

**Dr. Dipu Moni. M.P.
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

**Respected Secretary of D-8 International University Board of Trustees
& Chancellor of the University
Respected Chair of the Board of Trustees
His excellency ministers**

Assalamualikum.

I would like to extend my warm greetings to the attendees of Third Board of Trustees Meeting of D-8 International University. Unfortunately I couldn't attend the meeting in-person. However, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the secretariat for ensuring my online participation in the meeting. I hope that we will have a fruitful discussion regarding the agendas and thus will be able to strengthen our cooperation further.

At the very outset, with due respect and humble veneration, I would like to remember the greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his uncompromising and tremendous contribution for the expansion of Education.

Excellencies

D-8 International University was established to generate, promote and develop cooperation among the eight developing Islamic countries through interaction among universities and students. In the globalized and interconnected world achieving equitable, inclusive learning opportunities for all learners especially at the tertiary level, there is no alternative of cooperation, knowledge sharing and interaction. We all know that here lies the relevance and effectiveness of the D-8 International University. I believe our commitment, active participation and necessary contribution can make this initiative successful.

Being the member of the Board of Trustees I would like to draw your kind attention regarding the **accreditation of D8 International University**. In my opinion the accreditation should be done within the shortest possible time by accreditation body/institution of the respective D8 member countries.

Considering the worldwide economic scenario, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, I would like to suggest that the tuition and other fees should not be increased highly as proposed and consider of increasing the fees not more than 5-10%. Besides, I would highly recommend about taking joint initiatives for promoting the expansion of the university's collaborations with different higher educational institutions of the world.

I would like to put forth some issues for your consideration:

(a) A higher education exchange network along with E-knowledge network sharing can be developed among the D8 countries with a view to exchanging academic and research experience and findings, doing collaborative research and transfer of technology.

(b) Fellowships and Scholarships in the different levels of higher education may be introduced.

(c) Different linkage programmes can be developed among the countries in various emerging fields with special reference to human resource development and quality assurance in higher education.

(d) Joint academic research programs can be considered among the universities of D8 and other countries.

(e) Exchange programs for higher education Faculties/Managers, educational administrators can be undertaken to uphold and enhance quality world class education among the member countries.

(f) Admission and credit transfer facilities should be introduced among the universities of the member countries.

(g) Different joint degree programmes can be introduced with D8 International University and the member state universities.

Excellencies,

Education has always been a priority for the Government of Bangladesh. We are committed to ensure quality and inclusive tertiary education and our government has taken all out initiatives in this regard. However, we must remember that educating our next generation everywhere is our collective responsibility and therefore, we need to work together to translate our commitments to action.

I must emphasize on the collaboration and support of the D-8 member states. There is no alternative of developing strengthened collaboration across member states, building effective partnership among all stakeholders and renewing our commitment to education.

I hope this meeting will pave the way to go ahead with the Internationalization of Higher Education. I wish every success of D-8 International University and expect that it will be able to leave a positive impact in the society by generating knowledge and skills as a whole.

Thank you once again for giving me the floor and sharing my views. Thank you.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

Indonesia Statement for the 3rd BoT meeting of D-8IU, 9 October 2023.
**Representative: Yulita Priyoningsih, Sub Coordinator of Recognition Prior Learning
and International Learning Directorate of Learning and Student Affairs**

His Excellencies Prof. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol, The Chair of the Board of Trustees & Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran

His Excellencies Mr. Mohamaed Khaled Nordin, Minister of Higher Education Malaysia

All Board of Trustees Meeting participants, ladies and gentlemen

Indonesia's support for D8-International University by proposing Universitas Brawijaya and Syiah Kuala University is a significant step towards fostering international cooperation and educational excellence. The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, also known as Developing-8, is a group of eight emerging economies, and their initiative to establish an international university is a commendable effort to promote higher education and research.

Academic Excellence: Universitas Brawijaya and Syiah Kuala University are well-established higher education institutions in Indonesia, known for their academic excellence and research contributions. Their inclusion in the D8-International University project ensures that the institution will have strong academic foundations and can offer a high-quality education.

Diversity: These two universities represent the rich cultural and academic diversity of Indonesia. The D8-International University, with its participation, will likely draw from a wide range of expertise and cultural perspectives, enriching the educational experience for students and faculty from different parts of the world.

Regional Representation: Indonesia's proposal ensures Southeast Asia is well-represented in the D8-International University project. This will contribute to a more balanced regional distribution of educational resources and opportunities within the D-8 countries.

Global Collaboration: The participation of Indonesian universities in this project offers opportunities for global collaboration in education and research. It can lead to partnerships with institutions from other D-8 member countries and beyond, fostering international research and academic exchange.

Economic and Social Development: By supporting this initiative, Indonesia demonstrates its commitment to the economic and social development of the D-8 member countries. Education is a fundamental driver of progress, and establishing an international university can play a crucial role in human capital development in the member countries.

Challenges and Opportunities: While this proposal has great potential, it also comes with challenges, such as ensuring high-quality education, managing resources effectively, and maintaining academic standards. These issues will need careful planning and cooperation among the member countries.

In conclusion, Indonesia's support for the D8-International University through the proposal of Universitas Brawijaya and Syiah Kuala University is a positive development for the D-8 Organization. It aligns with the goals of promoting education, research, and cooperation among member countries, and it has the potential to make a significant impact on the region's educational landscape. With careful planning and international collaboration, this initiative can

contribute to developing a globally competitive institution and benefit students and scholars from D-8 member countries and beyond.

We are looking forward for the next collaboration between Indonesia Universities and D-8 International University.

Thank you very much

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. DATO' SERI MOHAMED KHALED BIN NORDIN
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION MALAYSIA**

**3rd D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
9 OCTOBER 2023**

1. H.E. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran cum Chair of the 3rd D-8 International University Board of Trustees Meeting, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation, Excellency Members of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor of D-8 International University and Distinguished Members of Meeting, *Assalammu'alaikum* and Good Morning.
2. First and foremost, on behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat of the D-8 International University for successfully hosting this meeting.
3. I extend my sincere gratitude for affording us this valuable opportunity to express our perspectives and stance on this occasion.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. In 2021, the 10th Summit of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Co-operation (D-8) that was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh concluded with the adoption of Dhaka Declaration 2021.
5. The declaration took note of major global challenges such as the threat of pandemic and climate disruption on humanity.
6. Alhamdulillah, the world has successfully navigated through the unprecedented pandemic, owing to the advancements in vaccine science.

7. However, our global challenges persist and are perpetual. We find ourselves in a unique moment in history, marked by profound upheaval. A time of huge disruptions.
8. As we address this assembly, a fresh conflict has erupted in the Gaza region.
9. The Climate Emergency is now impacting us in a magnitude beyond comprehension.
10. Furthermore, the harsh reality of underdevelopment and human insecurity pervades significant portions of the Muslim world.
11. It is important for us to resonate with all these challenges and find a way to provide a response through the mandates given to us as trustees of this very important institution of D8 International University.
12. In my recent keynote at the Kazan Forum 2023 in Russian Federation, I have indicated that in order to tackle monumental challenges such as climate change and the global pandemic, we need substantial collaborations.
13. Our shared predicaments extend beyond the realm of politics and into the sphere of our collective human endeavour.
14. We must rally our scientists, educators and innovators by giving them the tools and resources that will transform our countries into hotbeds of scientific discovery and technological innovation.
15. It is clear that no single institution can tackle the problems alone. All the challenges we face are global and so must be the solution. Collaboration is no longer optional. It is a requirement. As resources

diminish and challenges increases in complexity and scale, this becomes an imperative.

16. Let us start an international collaborative project that harness all our strength and our best brain to face some of our shared challenges.
17. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to propose that we deliberate upon a more precise and strategic cooperation on water related issues.
18. More specifically, I humbly propose that we seriously consider deliberating technical and methodological interchange in the form of a global research platform to undertake a comprehensive water research project for humanity.
19. Such platform would engage the finest minds from member states to share their knowledge and wisdom, aiming to offer scientific solutions to address both our present and future water-related challenges.
20. This recommendation is based and guided by numerous empirical studies and analytical assessments that have concurred that water is on the verge of becoming a potential catalyst for international conflicts.
21. I believe a serious and strategic collaboration on the water related subject will significantly equip us with enhanced readiness in confronting this impending crisis.
22. Therefore, Malaysia would like to humbly offer our experience and knowledge in this subject, and I invite all participants to nominate institutions from your respective countries so that we can, in turn, initiate a more serious deliberation on this subject matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

23. The success of our university's hinges upon the calibre of our academics and the excellence of our curricula.
24. Quality education is best delivered by the most capable and talented scholars and researchers, operating within a stringent quality framework.
25. Unfortunately, many universities in the Global South, especially those in Muslim majority countries have no means to send their academic staff for higher research degree training.
26. Malaysia proposes D8 International university to start working with relevant agencies in member states for a **higher education leadership training programme.**
27. Malaysia is prepared to take a leading role in this endeavour. Our Higher Education Leadership Academy is committed to training, equipping and preparing university leaders from member countries to meet their future transformative leadership needs.
28. Malaysia also proposes that we undertake a commitment to develop **common quality framework for D8 member states.**
29. The framework can later be extended to other Muslim countries for their adaptation.
30. This will eventually allow a mutual recognition agreement between all participating states.
31. Malaysia is prepared to have the Malaysian Quality Agencies undertake the responsibility of preparing the technical proposal for this initiative, which will be submitted for the consideration of the Board of Trustees.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

32. It is now our turn to do great things. Great things by the Muslim world and for the global communities, irrespective of race, religion, or nationality.
33. I am not here today, with a ready, solved solution.
34. I am here to convince you that we must explore the most out of the box ways in solving global problems and how a university like D 8 could provide the solutions and become the coordinating university to see the effective implementation and these initiatives.
35. I call for all members of this meeting and your respective institutions to consider these propositions.
36. And with that, I conclude my remarks by extending my heartiest gratitude and appreciation to the D-8 International University for hosting this meeting.
37. Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF
NIGERIA, PROFESSOR TAHIR MAMMAN DURING THE 3RD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF D-8 INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY, HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, 9TH OCTOBER
2023**

Protocol:

I, Professor Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN as the Honorable Minister of Education, Nigeria am pleased to join via zoom, the 4th Board of Trustee Meeting of D-8 International held in Hamedan, Islamic Republic of Iran.

I acknowledge the presence of all and convey the goodwill messages of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu, GCFR and the good people of Nigeria. I salute the Chairman, Secretary of D-8 International University and all Members here present today.

It is my privilege and delight to join Ministers and representatives of the eight-member countries of D-8 at this meeting, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey. As the current Minister of Education, I am glad to support the establishment of D-8 International University and by and large, the Organization for the purpose of Economic growth and posterity.

My Ministry (Education) in Nigeria has observed the concept of D-8 International University (D8IU) and its importance in promoting Economic Cooperation and educational cooperation among the Member States. In particular, the interaction among universities and students, aiming at strengthening academic exchanges among the Member State is a welcomed development. The promotion of cooperation on science and technology which aims at institutionalizing the subjects of cooperation and establishment of research centres in D-8 institutions /Universities provides

Members States opportunities to advance development and economic prosperity. Nigeria therefore congratulates all member states on this stride.

Within the context of the needs of the Nigerian education sector, all efforts will be explored to providing necessary support and collaboration, including nomination of participating Universities in research and other educational opportunities for teachers and students.

Finally, I sincerely apologize for my inability to participate physically and throughout the session but assure of my support and endorsement of decisions taken at this summit. I wish you well and happy deliberations!

I thank you all for listening.

Professor Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN