

REPORT

THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE D-8 TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL

ISTANBUL, 11 JUNE 2024

1. The Ministers of Trade/Commerce of the Member States of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) held the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC) in Istanbul, the Republic of Türkiye, on 11 June 2024. H.E. Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, hosted the Informal Meeting, on the margin of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) of the Trade Preferential System of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS OIC). H.E. Ahmed Samir Mahmoud Aly, the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt, chaired the Informal Meeting. The list of Delegates appears as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Welcoming Remarks by Türkiye as the Host Country

2. In his welcoming Remarks, the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye highlighted the importance of the Informal Meeting to complement the outcome of the 3rd Session of the D-8 Trade Ministers' Council held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024. He emphasized that the Meeting also serves as an avenue to discuss ways and means to boost the D-8 intra-trade, further. He underlined the vast potentials of the D-8, in the economic area, and reiterated Türkiye's commitment in pursuing the D-8's objectives. The Minister's remarks appear as **Annex II**.

3. After concluding his remarks, the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye then handed the Chairmanship of the informal meeting over to the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Agenda Item 2: Remarks by Egypt as the Chair of D-8 and Chair of the Informal Meeting

4. In his statement, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Samid Mahmoud Aly, the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt laid out Egyptian priorities during their D-8 Chairmanship, which commenced in May 2024. The Ministers' remarks appear as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

5. The Meeting considered and adopted its Agenda, which appears as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4: Remarks by the Secretary-General of the D-8

6. In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, presented a progress report on the just concluded seventh Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA and the third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers' Council in Dhaka on 4 and 5 March 2024. He also

added that the D-8 PTA Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) that will be signed later in the meeting will effectively settle any conflict that arises from trading with D-8 PTA. The D-8 Secretary-General's statement is attached as **Annex V**.

Agenda Item 5: Statement by the Heads of Delegations

7. The Honorable Ministers responsible for trade and Heads of Delegation of the D-8 Member States delivered their respective remarks, highlighting their respective governments' endeavors in promoting trade cooperation. The esteemed Ministers' respective remarks are attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion on implementation and the future roadmap of the D-8 PTA

8. The Meeting discussed the implementation of the D-8 PTA by the Contracting Members and the future roadmap for the D-8 PTA, particularly to ensure its organization-wide application and its effective implementation.

9. The Honorable Minister of Trade and Industry Egypt informed the Meeting that his country is in the process of finalizing the ratification of the D-8 PTA.

10. The Delegate of Türkiye opined that signing the DSM would revitalize the momentum of the implementation of the D-8 PTA. He underlined that the expansion of the existing Offer Lists and offering more concessionary tariff rates are mandated by the D-8 PTA and the Leaders of the D-8 Member States, through the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030. In this vein, Türkiye proposed to volunteer to host the negotiation process for the expansion of Offer Lists to expand and deepen the PTA agreement.

11. The Honorable Minister of Trade of Indonesia underscored the need to upgrade the D-8 PTA to a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), which he said will make the D-8 to become a more dynamic and powerful, competitive, and impactful economic bloc. He instructed the D-8 Secretariat to conduct a study on the modalities and steps towards a D-8 CEPA.

12. In her response, the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment of Nigeria stated that there is a need for a comparative study to define the best possible way for the D-8 to expand the instrument, either through a CEPA or expanding the Offer Lists. She argued that the exercise would further help Member States decide on the next course of action.

13. The Delegate of Bangladesh informed the Meeting that Bangladesh has completed all the procedures and has commenced implementing the D-8 PTA. He invited other Contracting Members to trade with Bangladesh under the provision of the D-8 PTA. He further invited Egypt, Nigeria, and Pakistan to finish their internal procedures and start implementation, at their earliest convenience. He also underlined the need for arranging capacity-building training and workshops for the relevant officials of the Member States.

14. Highlighting the lack of funding for capacity-building programs, the D-8 Secretary-General proposed to the Member States to voluntarily to host some of those programs and workshops, including for customs and trade officials. In response to his proposal, Egypt,

Indonesia, and Türkiye graciously offered to host capacity-building training for the relevant officials of the Member States concerning the implementation of the D-8 PTA.

15. Pakistan reiterated its stance from the Third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council hosted by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh at Dhaka on 5 March 2024 and informed that the business community of Pakistan is of the view that the existing concession lists do not offer meaningful concessions and Pakistan’s business community has better concessions available under other trade agreements with five member states of the D-8. The implementing member states may start operationalization of the agreement among themselves, and the others may join as soon as their internal procedures are completed. Pakistan will complete the necessary procedures for the operationalization of its part of the PTA as a ‘Single Undertaking’. Pakistan also reiterated its stance that before broadening the scope of the PTA, the agreement must be implemented first by all member states and the expansion should be done on “Request-Offer” approach.

Agenda Item 7: Consideration and adoption of the Declaration of Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council

16. The Meeting considered and adopted the Declaration of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, which appears as **Annex VII**.

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

17. The Secretary-General of the D-8 presented the progress report of the proposed D-8 barter trading system. He informed the meeting about the Symposium and Conference on the D-8 New Generation Barter Trading System, to be organized jointly with the AS Holding in Istanbul on 3 – 4 July 2024. He argued that a barter trading system would further boost the D-8 intra-trade.

18. In response, Nigeria emphasized the need for an appropriate framework to be developed to address all the issues that might arise while Member States engage in barter trading of different product groups. In response, Egypt welcomed the proposed Barter trade initiative and highlighted the role of a 3rd-party clearing house that will act as a matchmaker for Member States opting to engage in barter trading. Similarly, Indonesia also welcomed the initiative, stating that Indonesia has already applied a counter-trade mechanism with some of her partners. Türkiye also expressed her support for the idea of developing a D-8 barter trading system and will participate in the upcoming symposium in Istanbul.

19. The Meeting was also of the view that the D-8 must develop an e-commerce platform to support business interactions and trade relations and Member States acknowledged the importance of the digital economy and how it will affect traditional trade practices. In this regard, Türkiye proposed that this topic could be included in the agenda of future trade meetings of the D-8, which was met by other Member States’ support.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration and Adoption of the Report

20. The Meeting considered and adopted its Report.

Agenda Item 10: Signing Ceremony of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA

21. The People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Republic of Türkiye signed the Protocol to the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM), which was previously adopted during the 3rd Session of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in Dhaka on 5 March 2024.

22. The original text of the signed DSM will be deposited at the D-8 Secretariat as the depositary of the D-8 PTA. Other Contracting Members are expected to sign the DSM at the next meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council.

Agenda Item 11: Closing

23. The Secretary-General of the D-8 delivered his closing remarks by congratulating all Ministers and delegates from the D-8 Member States for having such a valuable discussion. He reiterated the D-8 Secretariat's commitment to facilitate activities presented by the Member States in promoting stronger collaboration in trade.

24. The Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, as the host, delivered his closing remarks by thanking all Ministers and delegates for attending the informal meeting and for their valuable contributions in the discussion to strengthen the D-8 trade cooperation further.

25. The Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt delivered his closing remarks by reiterating his appreciation to the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the meeting. He also reiterated Egypt's commitment as the Chair of the D-8 in elevating trade relations among the D-8 Member States. He then adjourned the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Trade/Commerce of the D-8 Member States.

26. The Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council was organized successfully and in a cordial manner. All Delegates congratulated the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye on the excellent preparation and arrangements for the Meeting and thanked Türkiye for its hospitality. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat for assisting in the preparation and convening of the Meeting.

List of Delegation
Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers
Istanbul, 11 June 2024

Country	Name and Ministry
Bangladesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. M Amanul Haq (HOD) Bangladesh Ambassador to Türkiye Embassy of Bangladesh in Ankara ambassador.ankara@mofa.gov.bd mission.ankara@mofa.gov.bd 2. Ms. Mahbuba Khatoon Minu Deputy Secretary (FTA-6), Ministry of Commerce mahbuba.8033@gmail.com; +8801706364964 3. Mr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs io1@mofa.gov.bd; +8801719577194
Egypt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. Mr. Ahmed Samir Saleh (HOD) Hon'ble Minister of Trade and Industry 2. H.E. Mr. Amr ElHamamy Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Turkiye 3. Mr. Aly Mohamed Aly Basha Commercial Counsel, Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Istanbul 4. Mr. Haytham Ahmed Abdelghany Mohamed Commercial Counsellor, Commercial Representation 5. Mr. Amr Mahmoud ElSayed Mahmoud Moussa Ministry of Trade and Industry
Indonesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Zulkifly Hasan (HOD) Hon'ble Minister of Trade 2. Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono Director General for International Trade Negotiations 3. Mr. Bara Krishna Hasibuan Special Staff of the Minister on International Trade Agreements

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Mr. Arif Wahyudi Expert Staff of the Minister in the Field of Technology 5. Mr. Michael Fernando Ginting Head of Subdivision of Ministerial Administration 6. Mr. Ibnu Aulia Hertantyo Suryakusuma Staff of the Secretariat of the Minister of Trade 7. Mr. Anwar Sanusi ADC of the Minister 8. Ms. Bety Mawarni Translator of the Minister 9. Mr. Gangsar Kurniawan Trade Negotiator 10. Mr. Nanang Andrian Trade Analyst 11. Ms. Sofia Mariana Nurfajri Staff of the Ministry of Trade
Iran	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Mahdi Zeighami (HOD) Deputy minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Trade Promotion Organization 2. H.E. Ahmad Mohammadi Consul General Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul 3. Mr. Hamid Tavoli Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 4. Mr. Hossein Shahmoradi Deputy Consul Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran 5. Mr. Kamran Davari Niku Commercial Attaché Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul

Malaysia	<p>1. Ms. Clara Soon May Lynn (HOD) Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Malaysia in Ankara</p>
Nigeria	<p>1. H.E. Dr. Doris Uzoka Anite (HOD) Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment</p> <p>2. H.E. Nura Abba Rimi Permanent Secretary Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment</p> <p>3. Mr. Abdulsalam Zayyad Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara</p>
Pakistan	<p>1. Mr. Nauman Aslam (HOD) Consul General Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Istanbul</p>
Türkiye	<p>1. Dr. Ömer BOLAT (HOD) Hon'ble Minister of Trade</p> <p>2. H.E. Mustafa TUZCU Deputy Minister of Trade</p> <p>3. Mr. Hüsnü DİLEMRE Director General of International Agreements and EU (GDIAEU)- Ministry of Trade</p> <p>4. Ms. Aylin BEBEKOĞLU Deputy Director General - GDIAEU Ministry of Trade bebekoglua@ticaret.gov.tr</p> <p>5. Ms. ELÇİN EDİS Head of Department - GDIAEU - Ministry of Trade edise@ticaret.gov.tr</p> <p>6. Ayşegül Demir AĞBAL Trade Expert - GDIAEU - Ministry of Trade agbala@ticaret.gov.tr</p>

D-8 Secretariat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="520 194 1101 309">1. Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam (HOD) Secretary-General Isiaka.imam@developing8.org<li data-bbox="520 353 1244 510">2. Mr. Punjul Setya Nugraha Director for Economy, Implementation and External Relations Punjul.nugraha@developing8.org<li data-bbox="520 555 1005 701">3. Mr. Md Biplob Tarafder Program Officer Biplob.tarafder@developing8.org +905365044842<li data-bbox="520 745 925 824">4. Ms. Zahra Setareh Kokab Executive Assistant<li data-bbox="520 869 821 947">5. Mr. Ismail Bello Executive Assistant<li data-bbox="520 992 949 1070">6. Mr. Ilham Uludag Media and Protocol Assistant
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**Speech of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Samir Saleh
Minister of Trade and Industry**

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE D-8 TRADE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

11 JUNE 2024 İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

- **H.E. Mr. Ahmed Samir, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt**
- **H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulkader Imam – Secretary General of the Developing 8 Organization for the Economic Cooperation**
- **Honorable head of delegations of the D8 Members States**

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to thank the Republic of Turkiye for hosting this important meeting, and to extend my appreciation and immense gratitude to all D-8 Countries, in particular to H.E. Prof. Dr. Omar Bolat and the Secretariat of the D8 for the continuous efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of our Organization.

In the occasion of Egypt assuming the D8 Chairmanship, I would like to convey Egypt gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Chair the Republic of Bangladesh for all its efforts exerted during its chairmanship of the organization.

Excellences, Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates

We look forward to collaborate further with all Member States during Egypt Chairmanship and beyond, to promote trade and economic cooperation, increase the Intra – D8 trade levels and achieve our joint objectives and aspirations.

Today among the other highly important discussions on our agenda, we are celebrating together the signing of the protocol of the "Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D8 – PTA", which is an essential tool in advancing the implementation for the PTA.

Being cognizant of its importance, Egypt has participated constructively in all related rounds of the negotiations of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

Excellences, Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates

Allow me to seize the opportunity of today's meeting, to share with you briefly the main features of Egypt vision during its chairmanship of the D8, which can be summarized in the following points:

1. Deepening trade integration by decreasing the custom tariffs - NTBS and customs clearance facilitation to enhance international border trade levels.
2. Encouraging mutual investments. Moreover, Establishing a D-8 center for investments.
3. Enhancement of the Sustainable Development: green economy initiatives and sustainable growth.
4. Encouraging Capacity Building programs.
5. Developing the Infrastructure as a main catalyst for growth. PPP is going to play a vital role in this context.
6. Establishing a platform for E-Commerce.
7. Activating the D-8 research and innovation network (NPRI), and enhancing Innovations and technology.
8. Activating the programs of the D-8 Youth Council.
9. Activating the cooperation in Tourism sector and Antiquities and working with the member states to

establish tourism Fund aiming at developing the Tourism sector.

10. Working for establishing the D-8 seeds bank for the food security challenges and Egypt is aiming to be a regional hub for trading in seeds.

Excellences, Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates

In concluding, I would like to once again thank you for your confidence in Egypt to chair the D-8 in the coming period.

I ask God Almighty to grant us success in this mission for the benefit of our countries and our people.

Thank you.

INFORMAL MEETING OF THE D-8 TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL

11 JUNE 2024 İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

Adopted Agenda

- 1. Welcoming Remarks by Türkiye as the Host Country**
- 2. Remarks by Egypt as the Chair of D-8 and Chair of the Informal Meeting**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Remarks by the D-8 Secretary General**
- 5. Statement by Heads of Delegations**
- 6. Discussion on implementation and the future roadmap for the D-8 PTA**
- 7. Consideration and adoption of the Declaration Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Consideration and Adoption of the Report**
- 10. Signing Ceremony of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA**
- 11. Closing of the Meeting**

**Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador
Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, at the Informal Meeting of
the D-8 Trade Ministers hosted by the Republic of
Turkiye, Istanbul, 11 June 2024**

***Esteemed Chair, H.E. Mr. AHMED SAMIR SALEH, Hon'ble
Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of
Egypt***

***The Host of today's Meeting, H.E. DR. ÖMER BOLAT,
Hon'ble Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye***

***Honourable Ministers/State/Deputy of Trade/Commerce
of the D-8 Member States,***

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here today, at this Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade/Commerce Ministers, hosted by the Republic of Türkiye here in Istanbul.

I thank and commend the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, and particularly to the Ministry of Trade, under the leadership of His Excellency

Minister Ömer Bolat, for hosting this meeting. This is a testament to Türkiye's unwavering commitment to elevate the D-8 trade cooperation.

Allow me also to express my profound appreciation to the Honourable Ministers and all esteemed delegations of the D-8 Member States, for attending this crucial meeting.

Hon'ble Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Trade is the major cornerstone of our beloved Organization. The People's Republic of Bangladesh, as immediate past D-8 Chair, hosted the **seventh Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA** and the **third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers' Council** in Dhaka on 4 and 5 March 2024 respectively.

Those two meetings adhere to a unified theme of "**Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**,".

The Third D-8 Trade Ministers Council adopted significant outcome.

First, the Council agreed that the five Contracting Members: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye may start implement and operationalize the D-8 PTA immediately. While Egypt, Nigeria, and Pakistan would complete their necessary internal procedures and start implementation of the D-8 PTA soon thereafter.

Second, the Council adopted the **Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM)** protocol, which form an integral part to the D-8 PTA. The DSM is expected to be signed today and will subsequently be ratified by the Contracting Members of the D-8 PTA. The DSM Protocol also strengthens the D-8 PTA by equipping the latter with a robust instrument to settle any unlikely dispute.

Third, the Council also adopted the **Paper on D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS)**. The TFS is a non-legally binding document that provide guidelines to implement the D-8 PTA.

Fourth, the Council issued the '**Dhaka Declaration on Trade Cooperation**', which outlines the future action plan to elevate the D-8 trade cooperation.

Among the crucial elements of the Declaration are:

- The need to review the existing offer lists and expand them to a more aggressive level. Only then the D-8 PTA will be more attractive to the business communities. The Council tasked the Secretariat to commission a study in this regard and submit its findings to the 8th Supervisory Committee Meeting. However, there is no specific allocation of funding for that study.
- The need to establish a D-8 database of non-tariff barriers and a work program for the removal of the para-tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

- The need to identify country-specific needs assessment, including financing and technical assistance, for capacity-building programs to implement the D-8 PTA. The Secretariat has issued a Note to inputs from the Member States for this purpose.
- The need for a study to explore the potential sectors for **trade in services** as the next phase of cooperation.

It was during the Third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council did Türkiye propose to host an informal meeting of the D-8 Trade/Commerce Ministers at the margin of the OIC Trade Negotiation Committee to discuss the next course of action on the D-8 PTA.

And here we are today, meet to chart the way forward for our trade cooperation.

Our today's meeting is also an excellent avenue for us to sign the **D-8 Dispute Settlement Mechanism Protocol**.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

The D-8 PTA was signed in 2006. It was eighteen years ago.

It entered into force in 2011.

Yet, little do we reap the benefit of *that* primary trade instrument of ours. It is on our shoulders that the lofty Agreement, that is there for us to benefit from, to --- well--- benefit us.

Therefore, in this August meeting, allow to reiterate my call to:

First, make the D-8 PTA an organization-wide instrument. I want to renew my call for the remaining Member State who haven't done so to ratify it and complete their necessary procedure to that effect. We owe it to our founder to utilize the D-8 PTA to its utmost potential. Moreover, we owe it to our future generations to lay a strong foundation for the D-8 vibrant and robust intra-trade.

Second, for the D-8 PTA to be beneficial, it must be known by all stakeholders, be it from the public and private sectors. We need to step up our game to sensitize the D-8 PTA to our citizens. Therefore, I want to call the Contracting Members to organize awareness raising campaigns to introduce the D-8 PTA.

Third, the Secretariat needs sufficient funding provision to conduct many studies entrusted to it to better implement the D-8 PTA. If the fund could not directly funnel to the Secretariat, that Member States can host and facilitate the studies.

Fourth, similarly, the D-8 Secretariat, as the depositary of the D-8 PTA, must be strengthened. We need a dedicated division that exclusively handle the operationalization of the D-8 PTA.

Fifth, we need a functioning Supervisory Committee. The Committee is entrusted to ensure the smooth running of the D-8 PTA. And we need to support it. I want to call Member States to assign a senior official to be the member of the Supervisory Committee.

Mr. Chair,

Honourable Ministers,

In conclusion, I am hopeful the D-8 PTA will one day become a more liberalized and aggressive instruments. Be it a free trade agreement or comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

And our meeting today demonstrated that we have the shared desire towards that direction.

Therefore, let us aim for that dream.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Statement
of
the Head of Delegation of Bangladesh
H.E. Mr. M Amanul Haq
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkiye
for
the informal D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting
11 June 2024

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Omer BOLAT, the Honorable Minister of Trade, Republic of Turkiye
Chair of the informal meeting Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Commerce, Islamic Republic of Egypt
Honourable Ministers/State Ministers/Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the OIC Member States,
Hon'ble Secretary General of D-8 H.E. Ambassador Ishaka A. Imam
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As-salamu alaykum and a very good morning to you all.

I am privileged to represent my State Minister for Commerce, H E Mr. Ahsanul Islam Tipu, who could not join us today due to some exigencies at home, at today's informal D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Trade, Republic of Turkiye. Our gratitude goes to the Government of Turkiye, and particularly to the Minister of Trade and his Ministry, for their unwavering commitment to ensure successful hosting and deliberations in this Meeting.

I congratulate them on the excellent arrangements made as well as for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to our delegation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to refer to the outcome of the just concluded Extraordinary Foreign Ministerial meeting of D8 on Gaza held on 8 June 2024 in Istanbul, Turkiye and would like to align ourselves completely with it. We would also like to express our deep condolences to our Iranian colleagues for the tragic reason known to all.

Excellencies

Today, I am very happy to underline that Bangladesh, under the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is one of the founding leaders of D8, Bangladesh has been able to conclude the internal procedures for adoption of D-8 PTA and Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This auspicious gathering of D-8 Trade Ministers' Council is very significant at this crucial moment when the global economy is facing severe challenges due to Russia-Ukraine conflict, recent unrest in middle-east areas and above all the Gaza crisis. I firmly believe that under the dynamic leadership of the present Chairman, we would be able to overcome the challenges through effective functioning of D-8 platform. Hopefully this Unofficial D-8 Trade Ministers' Council will help us to further consolidate and strengthen trade and investment relations among the Member States.

Distinguished Dignitaries,

You are kindly aware that Bangladesh has completed all necessary internal procedures on 21 July 2022 to implement the D-8 PTA that was the most important agenda of the Developing 8. We congratulate the other notifying countries like Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Türkiye. We would

also like to encourage the rother Member States who are on the eve of completing their internal procedure to fast track. I am confident that the effectuation of D-8 PTA will help harmonizing intra-country trade, liberalize the barriers and stimulate trade and economic cooperation among the Member States.

Distinguished Delegates,

As the Protocol to the D-8 PTA On Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) is a legally binding protocol, which shall be annexed to and form an integral part of the D-8 preferential trade Agreement, it is my privilege to sign this important Protocol under the Article 16 of the DSM and Article 26 of the D-8 PTA. I hope that this Protocol to the D-8 PTA On Dispute Settlement Mechanism will be enforced very soon after signing of the 4 (four) Member States.

Distinguished Dignitaries,

Let me have the pleasure to briefly touch upon recent development achievements of Bangladesh that has been growing steadily during the last decade. We are proud and happy that Bangladesh will graduate from the LDC by 2026. During the last fiscal year, we have achieved 6.03% growth in GDP despite of global economic crisis. I firmly believe that this informal D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting will help the negotiators to work at a more assertive level for enhancement of economic cooperation of the Member States such as trade, services, investment, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, agriculture, intra-regional tourism etc.

Hon'ble Ministers/Heads of Delegations

Finally, I render thanks to the trade negotiators of the Members States including D-8 Secretariat and appreciate the pains they underwent for the D-8 PTA negotiation, and finalization of Protocol to the D-8 PTA On Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM). Without their immense support and contribution, it would not possible to bring this agreement and protocol into reality. I am optimistic that new negotiation will start soon to expand the coverage of the trade agreement very soon.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Participants,

With this expectation, I again congratulate the delegates for their valuable insights and inputs. I also thank all the officials who made this event successful. We look forward to having a vibrant discussion today.

Joy Bangla.



**INTERVENTION
MINISTER OF TRADE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**INFORMAL MEETING OF
THE D-8 TRADE MINISTERS**

ISTANBUL, 11 JUNE 2024

10.30 – 12.30

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

- **His Excellency Mr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkiye;**
- **His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Samir Saleh, Minister of Trade and Industry of Egypt;**
- **His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D-8;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

A very good morning to all of you.

1. First of all, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for the excellent arrangement of this meeting, and the warm hospitality extended to our Delegation.
2. I am delighted to be with my colleague Ministers here in Istanbul, a city that is rich in culture and history.
3. On this opportunity, I would like also to extend our heartfelt condolences to our colleagues from **Iran**, for the passing of the Honorable President Ebrahim Raisi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other esteemed officials of the Republic of Iran.
4. Also, my heartfelt condolences go out to the people of **Palestine**. In these challenging times, I hope that the people of Palestine remain steadfast and resilient. May the people of Palestine find liberation and lasting peace.

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

5. Indonesia has a population exceeding 270 million, with 85% being Muslim. Since 2017, Indonesia's GDP has surpassed USD 1 trillion and continues to rise, reaching USD 1.32 trillion, placing it 16th globally. Projections indicate that by

2030, Indonesia's GDP will grow to USD 3.2 trillion, making it the 4th largest in the world.

6. Indonesia experienced significant advancements under President Jokowi's administration, including economic growth exceeding 5%, investments totalling IDR 1.207 trillion, substantial infrastructure development, and the signing of some international trade agreements like RCEP, IUAE-CEPA, and IK-CEPA.
7. The newly elected President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, is emphasizing the importance of sustainability and plans to continue the successful program initiated by President Jokowi.
8. Indonesia's economic scale, political stability, and successful development initiatives indicate that Indonesia is a promising cooperation partner for D-8 member nations.

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

9. Currently, trade among the D-8 member countries stands at \$170 billion. As the D-8 targets taking intra-regional trade nearly three times higher—to \$500 billion—by 2030, the PTA plays a crucial role in achieving this ambitious goal.

10. In this regard, I am delighted to announce that Indonesia has commenced the implementation of the PTA as of June 1st, 2024. Since Indonesia has taken this significant step, I would extend a warm invitation to other D-8 member states to expedite the ratification process and join the PTA.
11. Indonesia believes that member states should collaborate to strengthen the D-8 through expansive initiatives like the Comprehensive Trans-Regional Economic Partnership Agreement (CTREPA) strategic partnership. Initial discussions can begin with a trade agreement focusing on goods, progressing in stages.

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

12. The Protocol of Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) is an essential element for facilitating the implementation of the D-8 PTA.
13. In light of this, I am pleased to convey Indonesia's support for the effective implementation of the PTA and commitment to ratify the DSM protocol. It is important to establish a robust mechanism for resolving trade disputes among D-8 member states.

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

14. I believe that implementing the D-8 PTA would benefit business stakeholders. However, Indonesia also desires for the D-8 to take more strategic initiatives. In support of this, Indonesia is prepared to host the D-8 meeting next year.
15. Finally, I invite all the D-8 member states to maintain synergy and collaboration in order to achieve the vision and goals of the D-8 in the forthcoming years.

Thank you.

Statement from Malaysia

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat
Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye
Host of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC)

His Excellency Ahmed Samir Saleh
Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Chair of D-8 and Chair of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 TMC

His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary General, Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8)

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to everyone.

I wish to convey the warm greetings from Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia, The Honourable Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz. Due to prior committed engagements, the Minister is not able to attend.

Malaysia would like to express at the outset, our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting this Informal Meeting of the D-8 TMC to follow up on the outcomes of the 3rd D-8 TMC during which the Member States had agreed to bolster the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), and adopted the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA, which will form an integral part of the Agreement. I would also like to thank the D-8 Secretariat for their efforts in organising this meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception in 1997, the D-8 has fostered economic prosperity among its Member States, establishing itself as a valuable platform for collaboration on issues of mutual interest, and delivered tangible benefits for our people. Malaysia is proud to be a part of this collective journey, and firmly believes in its potential. Malaysia looks forward to greater D-8 trade cooperation under the chairmanship of Egypt.

In order to rapidly realize the true potential that our block possesses, the implementation of the D-8 PTA is of paramount importance. We have made significant strides in this endeavour with the adoption of the Paper on Trade Facilitation Strategy

of the D-8 PTA during the 3rd D-8 TMC, along with two additional new trade instruments that are expected to support the D-8 PTA to make it more effective. Having said that, Malaysia looks forward for an insightful discussion today.

Thank you.

Statement by the Head of Pakistan Delegation

Honourable Minister for Trade, Turkiye Dr. Omer BOLAT

Excellency Secretary General of D-8 Organization

Excellencies.

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I wish to bring on record our appreciations to the Government of Turkiye for hosting this meeting and our gratitude for the generous hospitality and making excellent arrangement for the meeting.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Trade, the Chair and Republic of Turkiye for organizing an informal meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Heads of the Delegations from D-8 member countries.

I would also like to express our heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of the President of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Foreign Minister of Iran in a recent tragic incident.

I also thank the D-8 Secretariat for scheduling the meeting and preparing necessary documents for our consideration.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Pakistan, with its strategic geographic location and a vibrant economy, is committed to actively participating in and contributing to the objectives of the D-8 organization. We recognize the importance of enhancing trade facilitation measures, reducing barriers, and promoting investments to foster economic growth within our region.

The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was established twenty-seven years ago with the aim of boosting trade and economic collaboration among eight emerging economies in the Muslim world. The initial goal was to increase intra D-8 trade to at least 10% of the member states' total global trade within the first ten years, with further enhancements expected in the following years.

However, this modest target has not been met even after 26 years of the organization's existence. By 2022, intra-D8 trade amounted to USD 170 billion, representing only about 7% of the member states' global trade. Consequently, the objective of achieving 10% intra-D8 trade remains an elusive dream

A crucial step in advancing D-8 trade and economic cooperation was the signing of the D-8 PTA in 2006, which came into effect in 2011. The PTA aims to expand and enhance

trade by reducing tariffs and eliminating para-tariff and non-tariff barriers. Therefore, the implementation of the PTA is essential to achieving some of the organization's key objectives.

While Pakistan considers the D-8 PTA important and is fully committed to its implementation, we also believe that the tariff concessions offered under the PTA have to be substantial equitable and to achieve and desired goals and targets. There is a need to ensure that the lists are not limited to non-traded or minimally traded goods, but also include intermediate and commonly traded goods on the new HS codes of the member states. This process would not only make the PTA meaningful and attractive for the member states but would also facilitate its early and full implementation.

As regards signing of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism, whilst we support its signing, however, in line with the decision taken in the Ministerial Meeting held on 5th March 2024 at Dacca, Bangladesh, we request that this may be signed during the upcoming formal meeting of the Ministers to be held in Egypt.

My delegation wishes steady progress and great achievements to this informal Meeting of the Trade Ministers Council. **I thank you.**



**JOINT DECLARATION OF THE
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE D-8 TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL
ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
11 JUNE 2024**

We, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of 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 met in İstanbul on 11 June 2024 on the sidelines of 3rd Ministerial Meeting of TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee, for the Informal Meeting of D-8 Trade Ministers Council;

Reaffirming our commitments set out in the Summit Declarations held in Istanbul (1997), Dhaka (1999), Cairo (2001), Tehran (2004), Bali (2006), Kuala Lumpur (2008), Abuja (2010), Islamabad (2012), Istanbul (2017), Dhaka (2021) and to the Decennial Road Map (2008-2018) and (2020-2030);

Recalling the commitments made in the Declaration adopted at the 1st meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in Abuja (2013); Declaration adopted at the 2nd meeting of the Trade Ministers Council in Islamabad (2016) and Declaration adopted at the 3rd meeting of the Trade Ministers Council in Dhaka (2024);

Reaffirming the commitment reflected in the Dhaka Declaration adopted at the 10th Summit of the D-8 held on 21 April 2021 in Dhaka on operationalizing the Preferential Trade, the Visa and the Customs Agreement;

Also reaffirming the Joint Declaration adopted at the Extraordinary Meeting of the D-8 Council of Ministers on the Situation in Gaza, held in İstanbul, Republic of Türkiye on 8 June 2024;

do hereby,

1. **Condemn** in the strongest terms the brutal and inhuman Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as well as in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem;
2. **Demand** complete lifting the Israeli siege on Gaza, including through opening of all available land border crossings and allowing the entry of international humanitarian aid convoys, including food, medicine and fuel into the Gaza Strip without any hindrance
3. **Reiterate** our determination to strengthen the existing trade and economic cooperation among the member states to further increase the wellbeing of our peoples,
4. **Welcome** the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA) by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Türkiye, and **call upon** the other Contracting Members to commence implementation of the D-8 PTA at their earliest convenience;
5. **Agree** to double efforts to increase the intra-trade of D-8 Member States to at least 10 percent of the D-8 global trade, as reflected in the Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030;
6. **Reemphasize** the importance of having a study to explore the ways and means for the expansion of the PTA;
7. **Congratulate** the Government of Republic of Türkiye for successful hosting and Egypt for excellent chairing of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council.