

**Report of
The 48th Session of the D-8 Commission
Cairo, Egypt, 16 December 2024**

The 48th Session of the D-8 Commission was held in Cairo, on 16 December 2024, hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in its role as the new Chair of the D-8 Organization. The meeting was Chaired by **Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby**, the D-8 Commissioner and Assistant Minister for Multilateral, International and Regional Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt.

Commissioners/Delegates from all Member States attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening.

Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates. He invited the D-8 Commissioner from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the outgoing Chair of the Organization, to formally hand-over the Chairmanship to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby, the incoming Chair, warmly welcomed the delegates and reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to collaborative efforts in advancing the Organization's agenda. He expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for its significant contributions as the Chair of D-8 and acknowledged the progress achieved under its leadership.

He further informed the delegates that Egypt has signed the Preferential Trade Agreement, and the Bill for its ratification is currently under active consideration in Parliament, with ratification expected in the near future.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda.

The meeting considered its agenda and adopted with amendments. The adopted Agenda is attached as **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item 3: Statement and progress report on D-8 Organization's activities since October 2023, by the D-8 Secretary-General.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of D-8, presented reports on the Organization's activities since the 47th Commission meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in October 2023.

The progress reports on Sectoral Cooperation, Trade, and External Relations, along with his statement, are attached as **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item 4: Statements by the Heads of Delegations

Heads of Delegation from each Member State delivered their remarks, extending their congratulations and appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for assuming the Chair of the D-8 Organization and for hosting the 11th Summit, the 21st Council and the 48th Session of the D-8 Commission in Cairo. The Delegates also expressed their utmost gratitude and congratulate the People's Republic of Bangladesh for steering the Organization during its chairmanship from 2021 until 2024. They also commended the efforts of the Secretariat and the Secretary-General in advancing the Organization's cooperation agenda.

The statements are attached in **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item 5: The D-8 Organization Expansion

- a. Consideration of criteria and modalities for new members and observers of the D-8 Organization.
- b. Consideration of the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Chair and D-8 Commissioner of Egypt informed the meeting that the criteria and modalities for new members and observers had consensus by seven member states at the last Commission meeting. He informed the meeting that Egypt now also joins the consensus with other member states on both documents.

The Commissioner of Iran proposed minor amendments in the draft criteria and modalities which was accepted by all member states. After incorporating the amendments proposed by Iran, both documents were adopted by the esteemed Commission. The adopted Criteria and Modalities for new members and observers are enclosed as **Annex-V**.

The Commissioner of Indonesia brought to the attention of the esteemed Commission the effect of inclusion of new members and observers into the Organization and sought clarification on its implications on the D-8 Charter.

The Chair sought clarification from the Secretariat on the issues raised by Indonesia. The Secretary General informed that any changes in terms of granting Membership or Observer status, can be reflected as an Addendum to the D-8 Charter. He also pointed out that an appropriate paragraph to this effect is contained in the Declaration as well.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting adopted Azerbaijan's admission as a full member with consensus and recommended it to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration and adoption of the candidature of the Director-I nominated by the Republic of Türkiye.

The Delegation of Türkiye requested the meeting to defer the nomination for the position of Director-I, stating that the nomination of Türkiye's candidate for the post would be shared with the Member States through the Secretariat in due course.

The Chair and the Commission expressed their appreciation for the contributions of Mr. Ahmar Ismail, the outgoing Director-I of the Secretariat, and extended their best wishes for his future endeavors.

Agenda Item 7: Preparation for the 21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit.

- a. Briefing by the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- b. Consideration of the draft Agendas.
- c. Consideration of the Cairo Declaration 2024.

The delegate from Egypt updated the meeting on the preparations to host the 21st D-8 Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit, including protocol and administrative arrangements.

The Secretary General presented the draft agendas for the 21st D-8 Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit, providing a detailed briefing to the meeting.

Following deliberations, the draft agendas were agreed upon and attached as **Annex-VI**.

The meeting reviewed and agreed upon the draft Cairo Declaration 2024 after incorporating amendments suggested by member states. The Commission recommended its submission to the Council of Ministers for approval. The agreed upon document is attached as **Annex-VII**.

The Commissioner of the Republic of Türkiye informed the meeting about Türkiye's continued desire to have a permanent post of Deputy Secretary-General in the Secretariat. The Commission decided to discuss the matter in its future sessions in the context of the recommendation made during the 20th Session of the Commission held in Bali in 2006.

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

- a) Consideration, adoption, and recommendation of the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for 2025.

The Secretary-General presented the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for 2025 for the esteemed Commission's consideration and adoption.

The draft budget had already been agreed upon during a series of virtual ‘Senior Officials Meetings’ from Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States, held on 25 November, 4 December, and 9 December 2024, respectively.

The Commissioner of Iran invited attention of the Commission on revision of the scales of assessed contributions, as well as a need to establish a mechanism for annual increment of the salaries of the Secretariat staff.

Türkiye stated that it was content with the current scale of assessed contributions and pointed out that all the outstanding arrears towards budgetary contributions needed to be paid as a matter of priority. Türkiye further stated that there was no pressing need to discuss the revision at the moment.

Pakistan and Malaysia expressed their agreement to discuss the revision in scales of assessment of member states.

Bangladesh highlighted that a mechanism needed to be proposed to sustain sufficient funds in the General Reserve Fund (GRF).

Indonesia expressed its concern over the salary discrepancies between the Directing Staff position and general/local staff, and the continued utilization of the General Reserve Fund and requested the Secretariat to address those issues.

The Chair decided to discuss any future matters of importance, including the budgetary matters, through virtual meetings of the Senior Officials. It was also decided that Senior Officials Meetings on Budget would be held prior to Commission meetings on a regular basis.

After deliberations, the meeting adopted the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for 2025 and recommended the 2025 budget, including the GRF, for approval by the Council of Ministers.

The adopted budget is attached as **Annex-VIII**.

Agenda item 9 - Update on the Calendar of Events for 2025-2026

The Secretariat presented the Draft Calendar of Events for 2025-2026 to the Commission. Delegates updated the Commission on their countries’ readiness to host the enlisted events. An updated Calendar of Events is attached as **Annex-XI**.

Agenda Item 10 – Date and Venue for the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission.

The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt informed the meeting of its readiness to hold the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission, tentatively during the second quarter of 2025. The exact date and venue will be communicated to all Member States through the D-8 Secretariat in due course.

The Commissioner of Iran reiterated his delegation's proposal that at least one Commission's session per year may be convened in the premises of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration of the nomination for the next Secretary-General from Pakistan.

The Commissioner from Pakistan presented the nomination of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood by the Government of Pakistan for the position of the Secretary General of the D-8 Organization, starting from 1 January 2026.

The Chair and the Commission commended and appreciated the services of Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and commended his contribution to advancing the agenda of cooperation of the D-8 Organization.

The Commission endorsed the nomination of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood as the next Secretary-General of the D-8.

Agenda Item 12- Consideration of the Joint Communiqué on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the draft Joint Communiqué after incorporating amendments suggested by member states. The Commission recommended its submission to the Council of Ministers for approval. The adopted document is attached as **Annex-X**.

Agenda Item 13 - Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 48th Session of the D-8 Commission

The D-8 Commission considered and adopted the Report of its 48th Session.

Closing of the Meeting.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the excellent arrangements made in organizing the Commission meeting, as well as the upcoming Council of Ministers and Summit meetings scheduled for 18 and 19 December 2024, respectively.

The meeting also commended the Chair for his capable leadership in presiding over the meeting and acknowledged the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their outstanding preparations for the meeting and its accompanying documents.

The meeting was closed on Monday, 16 December 2024.

List of the Participants
48th Session of the D-8 Commission held on 16 December 2024
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

COUNTRY	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT
Bangladesh	<p>1- Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Director General (International Organizations wings), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh</p> <p>2- Ms. Nisa Chakma Senior Assistant Secretary (International Organizations Wing), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh</p>	<p>Phone: +880171000646 Abdullah.mamun@mofa.gov.bd</p> <p>Contact info: +8801914224669</p>
Egypt	<p>1- Amb. Ragui El Etreby Assistant foreign Minister for Multilateral and Regional Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt</p> <p>2- Amb. Hazem Zaki Designation: Deputy Assistant Minister for Regional economic affairs</p> <p>3- Mr. Ahmed Magdy, Counsellor of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.</p> <p>4- Ms. Amira El Gandour, Counsellor of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.</p> <p>5- Mr. Ahmed Shash, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.</p> <p>6- Mr. Ahmed Saber, Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.</p>	<p>Email: hiizaki@outlook.com</p>

Indonesia	<p>1- Ambassador Tri tharyat, Director General for Multilateral affairs of Indonesia</p> <p>2- Mrs. Penny Dewi Herasati, Director Socio-Cultural and International Organization for Developing Countries.</p> <p>3- Mr. Arief Rachmat Hidayat First Secretary - Official from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia</p> <p>4- Mr. Pradono Anindito First Secretary-Official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia</p>	<p>Email: Penny.herasati@kemlu.go.id</p> <p>Email: Arief.rachmat@kemlu.go.id</p>
Iran	<p>1- Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, DG for Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation and D8 Commissioner, MFA</p> <p>2- Ms. Yasaman Yeganeh Officer in charge of D8, MFA</p> <p>3- Mr. Shayan Jozani Third Secretary, MFA</p>	
Malaysia	<p>1- Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali Commissioner of Malaysia to D-8</p> <p>2- Ms. Noor Aida Mohd Adham, Assistant Secretary, OIC and Regional Cooperation Division,</p>	<p>Emails: amizal@kln.gov.my / orcd@kln.gov.my</p> <p>Contact info: noor.aida@kln.gov.my/ +6019 2600876</p>

	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia	
Nigeria	<p>1- Amb. Dunoma Umar Ahmed, PhD Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria</p> <p>2- Amb. Adeyemi Adesoye Director Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria</p> <p>3- Amb. Zayyad Habu Abdussalam CDA, ai Embassy of Nigeria, Ankara</p> <p>4- Amb. Bukar Abdussalam Deputy Director, Global Institutions Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria</p> <p>5- Mr. Adesoye Samotu CDA, ai, Embassy of Nigeria Cairo</p>	Email :zayyadmfa101@gmail.com
Pakistan	<p>1- Dr Asima Rabbani Director General (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan</p> <p>2- Mr. Shah Nazar Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan</p> <p>3- Faisal Abbas Assistant Director (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Türkiye</p>	<p>1- Ambassador Aylin Sekizkök D-8 Commissioner, DG for International Economic Affairs, MFA Türkiye</p> <p>2- Ambassador Ahmet Riza Demirer, DG for Middle East, MFA Türkiye</p> <p>3- Mr. Riza Kagan Yilmaz Head of Department, MFA Türkiye</p> <p>4- Mr. Huseyin Ozen First Secretary, MFA Türkiye</p>	<p>Email: asekizkok@mfa.gov.tr</p> <p>Email: ademirer@mfa.gov.tr</p> <p>Email: kyilmaz@mfa.gov.tr</p> <p>Email: huseyin.ozen@mfa.gov.tr</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">D-8 Secretariat</p>	<p>1- Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General</p> <p>2- Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director-I</p> <p>3- Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director-II</p> <p>4- Mr. Muhammad Bilal Khan, Executive Assistant-I</p> <p>5- Ms. Zahra Setareh, Executive Assistant-II</p> <p>6- Mr. Ismail Bello, Executive Assistant-III</p> <p>7- Mr. Ilham Uludag, Media and Protocol Assistant</p>	<p>Email: Isiaka.imam@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: Ahmar.ismail@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: Punjul.nugraha@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: bilal.khan@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: zahra.setareh@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: ismail.bello@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: Ilham.uludag@developing8.org</p>

Agenda
48th Session of the D-8 Commission
16-17 December 2024
Cairo, Egypt

Agenda Item 1: Opening.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda.

Agenda Item 3: Statement and progress report on D-8 Organization's activities since October 2023, by the D-8 Secretary-General.

Agenda Item 4: Statements by the Heads of Delegations (3 minutes each).

Agenda Item 5: The D-8 Organization Expansion

- a. Consideration of criteria and modalities for new members and observers of the D-8 Organization.
- b. Consideration of the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration and adoption of the candidature of the Director-I nominated by the Republic of Türkiye.

Agenda Item 7: Preparation for the 21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit.

- a. Briefing by the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- b. Consideration of the draft Agendas.
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Agenda Item 8: Consideration of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat.

- a) Consideration, adoption, and recommendation of the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for 2025.

Agenda item 9 - Update on the Calendar of Events for 2025 and beyond

Agenda Item 10 – Date and Venue for the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration of the nomination for the next Secretary-General from Pakistan.

Agenda Item 12 – Consideration of the Joint Communique on the Humanitarian Crisis and Reconstruction Challenges in Gaza and Lebanon.

Agenda Item 13- Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 48th Session of the D-8 Commission

Closing of the meeting.

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR ISIAKA
ABDULQADIR IMAM, THE SECRETARAY GENERAL OF THE
DEVELOPING-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE D-8
COMMISSION MEETING, IN CAIRO EGYPT – 16-17
DECEMBER 2024.**

**Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby, Assistant Minister for
Multilateral International and Regional Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and Chair of the D8
Commission,**

Excellencies D-8 Commissioners,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalam o Alaikum and very good morning to you all,

It is an honor and privilege for me to address this esteemed gathering
of Commissioners of the D-8 Organization, at the 48th Session of the
D-8 Commission, here in this vibrant city of New Cairo.

Egypt holds a special place in my heart, as I have a deep emotional connection, with this country. One, my late father, His Excellency Ambassador Abdulkadir Muhammad Sambo Imam, served as the Ambassador of Nigeria to Egypt from 1978 to 1984. Two, I completed my graduation, at the American University in Cairo in 1985, which add to my bond, with this remarkable nation.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt, our gracious host, for their hospitality and meticulous arrangements for this meeting. We deeply appreciate their efforts in preparing today's and tomorrow's Meeting, as well as the upcoming sessions of the 21st Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit, scheduled for December 18 and 19, 2024, respectively.

I also congratulate Egypt, on her assumption of the D-8 Chairmanship. This is Egypt's second tenure as Chair of the

organization, the first was in 2001. Therefore, I wish to offer my full support and best wishes to Egypt.

Also, I would like to commend the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for the exemplary leadership, during their tenure as Chair, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unprecedented difficulties, Bangladesh demonstrated resilience and innovation, introducing virtual meetings and successfully hosting the Tenth D-8 Summit, online on 8 April 2021. Under their leadership, significant progress was made toward achieving the goals set by our leaders at the Tenth Summit, and for that, they deserve our deepest appreciation.

I also warmly welcome the newest members of the D-8 Commission family, from **Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Türkiye**. I am confident that our new Commissioners will infuse fresh energy into

our work, and their expertise will be deployed for the benefit of enhancing D-8 cooperation agenda.

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are navigating challenging times, as world economy grapple with the burden of conflicts, climate change, unilateral and unjustified trade embargoes, which create imbalances and threaten global stability. These realities, call for an innovative agenda of cooperation, as well as stronger collaboration to support and protect our member states.

Since I assumed the role of Secretary-General of our noble organization, I have prioritized the promotion of both traditional and creative avenues of cooperation, with particular emphasis on fostering private-sector engagement, and integrating it with the public sectors, of our member states. Under my leadership, we have

achieved significant milestones, and details of such achievements are contained in the Progress Report, which is placed before you.

However, allow me Mr. Chair, to highlight some of the key achievements, recorded since my assumption of office. These include:

- **Trade:** In the area of trade, I am happy to report that Türkiye and Indonesia have commenced the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, since 2022 and 2024, respectively. I look forward to the organization-wide application, of this crucial instrument, to boost our intra-trade.

Also, I am happy to report that Egypt is set to be a Contracting Member of the D-8 PTA very soon, marking a monumental milestone for the D-8, under the Egyptian D-8 Presidency, as all D-8 Member States will soon be D-8 PTA Contracting Members.

In the same period, we were able to conclude negotiation on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol of the D-8 PTA, which was adopted during the 3rd D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting in Dhaka March, this year. Four D-8 PTA Contracting Members, also signed the DSM Protocol, during the informal meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers in Istanbul last June.

- **Tourism.** In the area of tourism, we were able to advance our Tourism Cooperation, with the successful launch of the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award, in which the City of Antalya in Türkiye, was unanimously selected as the inaugural recipient for 2025.
- **Agriculture:** In the area of agriculture, and food security, we successfully introduced Thematic-Based Agriculture Initiatives

and organized workshops on climate-smart agriculture techniques, hosted by Türkiye and Bangladesh.

Furthermore, we finalized an MoU, with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), and successfully inaugurated the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security, in Faisalabad, Pakistan. The center now actively collaborates with member states, and partners, like IOFS and FAO.

- **Youth.** In the area of youth development, I am happy to report that the proposed D-8 Youth Council, which Bangladesh will host, is at the final stage of taking off. Once operationalized, the Youth Council will involve and engage young people, in cooperative efforts.
- **External Relations:** We have recorded resounding success in the area of external relations, by building strong partnerships, with the International Organizations, such as, the UN, UNCTAD,

UNDESA, OIC, ECO etc. These collaborations have contributed to the work of the D-8, particularly in the areas of developing an e-Government experts' network and enhancing our organization's visibility, globally.

Furthermore, we have leveraged on social and electronic media, to boost publicity and outreach. This has significantly enhanced our organization's image and showcased our activities, in the member states, and globally.

Private-Sector Engagement: We have strengthened our engagement with the private sector in member states, particularly the D8CCI, to promote trade and economic cooperation, as mandated by the 2030 Decennial Roadmap. Initiatives like the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center, the New Generation Barter Trading System and the D8 Payment Card, which we are pursuing with vigor, along with our partners

in Malaysia and Türkiye, hold great potential for economic integration and trade facilitation, when they become fully operational.

These accomplishments, **Excellencies**, reflect our collective commitment to fostering meaningful cooperation, leveraging innovative strategies, and ensuring sustainable growth for all member states.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's agenda, for discussion, is well-focused, covering key issues of importance, such as the following:

1. Expansion of the Organization:

The esteemed Commission, will review the membership application of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as finalize the

draft criteria and modalities, for admitting new members and observers to the D-8 Organization.

2. Nomination of the Next Secretary-General and the Director-I Position

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, will brief the Commission on its nomination for the next Secretary-General, who will assume office in January 2026.

Also, the Republic of Türkiye, will introduce its candidate for the position of Director-I, which will become vacant on August 8, 2025. This position is currently held by Pakistan.

3. Preparations for Upcoming Statutory Meetings:

The Arab Republic of Egypt, will update the Commission on preparations for the 21st Council of Ministers' meeting and the

11th D-8 Summit. Egypt will also present the agendas, for these meetings, seeking the Commission's adoption.

4. Outcome Documents for the 11th D-8 Summit:

As Chair of the Organization, Egypt will introduce drafts of the summit outcome documents, namely, the *Cairo Declaration 2024* and **the *Joint Communiqué on Humanitarian Crisis and Reconstruction Challenges in Gaza and Lebanon***. The Commission will deliberate on these drafts and forward them, after adoption to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

5. 2025 Budget Proposal:

The Secretariat, will present its proposed budget for 2025, for the Commission's review and adoption. The budget has been deliberated and endorsed by member states' senior officials and

is ready, for further endorsement, by this noble Commission, for adoption.

6. Calendar of Events for 2025 and Beyond:

The Secretariat, will also propose a draft calendar of events, for 2025 and beyond. The Commission will discuss, finalize, and adopt, this calendar of events.

Each of these agenda items is crucial, to advancing the goals and priorities of our organization, and we look forward to productive deliberations and decisions.

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes, for productive deliberations and a successful outcome, for today's meeting, as well as the

upcoming statutory meetings—the 21st Council of Ministers and the 11th D-8 Summit meetings—that will follow this Commission session.

Once again, I congratulate the Arab Republic of Egypt and the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, for a seamless, and successful, transition of the Organization’s Chairmanship. I am confident that under Egypt’s leadership, the D-8 will continue to achieve its objectives, in advancing its agenda of cooperation.

I commend and deeply appreciate the Arab Republic of Egypt, for their exceptional hospitality, and wish them the very best in organizing a successful 11th D-8 Summit.

I thank you all, for your kind attention.

Speech by Bangladesh's D-8 Commissioner
48th Session of the D-8 Commission
Cairo, Egypt
16-17 December 2024

His Excellency Ambassador Ragui El-Eterby, Chair of the Session
Excellency Secretary General Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam,
Excellencies Commissioners of the D-8,
Distinguished Members of the Delegation,

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning to you all.

It is a profound honor to address you all as the outgoing Chair of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their exemplary efforts in hosting the 11th D-8 Summit under the theme "Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy." Bangladesh warmly congratulates Egypt on assuming the Chairmanship and expresses confidence in its leadership to strengthen the D-8's role in promoting shared prosperity.

During Bangladesh's tenure as Chair, we have strived to make tangible contributions to the organization's mission of promoting sustainable development. We assumed the chairmanship when the whole world was grappling with COVID-19.

Our extended term as Chair was made possible through the trust and support of all Member States, for which we are deeply grateful. Today, as we hand over the Chairmanship to the Arab Republic of Egypt, on behalf of Bangladesh, I assure Egypt of our full support in leading this organization toward even greater achievements.

Bangladesh has consistently emphasized inclusive economic collaboration and a landmark achievement during our tenure was the ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) by all member states. This milestone, combined with the adoption of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism protocol, marks a significant leap towards operationalizing the PTA. However, challenges persist, as intra-D-8 trade is yet to reach nowhere near the aspirational target of USD 500 billion.

Recognizing these challenges, we all know that D-8 has advocated for innovative solutions, including the introduction of the D-8 New Generation Barter Trading System (NGBT) to alleviate currency exchange constraints and enhance trade. Additionally, we have supported initiatives

like the D-8 Payment System, Special Economic Zones, and the development of a regional e-commerce platform to promote greater economic integration.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh's economic achievements underscore our commitment to advancing the collective prosperity of the D-8 community. Our resilience and economic dynamism serve as a testament to our transformative development trajectory.

Bangladesh successfully hosted the 7th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security which facilitated knowledge sharing and policy coordination, Bangladesh's initiative in organizing the D-8 Webinar on Agriculture in 2024 has further strengthened our collective resolve to achieve sustainable agricultural practices.

During our tenure, we also focused on youth empowerment and skill development. Hosting the first D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting in 2024 in Dhaka was a pivotal step toward establishing the D-8 Youth Council, a platform that promises to harness the potential of our youth for sustainable development. Although its constitution remains under deliberation, we are optimistic that it will soon be realized, creating pathways for innovation and collaboration across member states.

Excellencies,

While celebrating these milestones, Bangladesh cannot overlook pressing global challenges. We call on the D-8 community to amplify efforts in addressing humanitarian crises such as the rohingya crisis. Additionally, the ongoing crises in Gaza and Lebanon underscore the need for collective action to ensure peace and stability. Bangladesh remains steadfast in its support for the rights and dignity of all affected populations and calls for increased D-8 engagement in addressing these issues. Though its an organization focusing on economic cooperation, yet we may consider for increasing engagement like we are having a special session this time.

As we hand over the Chairmanship to Egypt, Bangladesh remains committed to supporting the initiatives and aspirations of the D-8. We commend the Secretariat for its steadfast efforts in advancing our shared goals, including the establishment of the D-8 Research Centre for Agriculture and Food Security in Pakistan and the D-8 International University in Iran. We also acknowledge Türkiye's leadership in launching the D-8 NGBT and Nigeria's role in finalizing the D-8 NPRI Charter.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh expresses its profound gratitude to all member states for their collaboration and support during our tenure as Chair. We are confident that Egypt's Chairmanship will usher in a new era of growth and innovation for the D-8. Let us work together to realize the full potential of this organization and foster a future defined by shared prosperity, sustainability, and resilience.

I Thank you all.

Egypt

Statement

**H.E. Tri Tharyat, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation Affairs
D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia
at the 48th Session of D-8 Commission
Cairo, 16-17 December 2024
His Excellency Ragui El-Etreby, D-8 Commissioner for Egypt
His Excellency Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, D-8 Secretary General
Honorable D-8 Commissioners**

1. Our meeting is timely, as global polycrisis including poverty and inequality... continues to affect our development trajectory.
2. To overcome these challenges, we must strengthen economic collaboration.
3. **First**, full operationalization of D-8 PTA.
4. D-8 PTA is a main proponent to unlock our vast economic advantages.
5. With a combined GDP of USD 4.8 trillion... D-8 is among the world's largest economies.

6. Yet our intra-trade in 2023 stood at only USD 145 billion... barely reflecting its true potentials.

7. Collective implementation is therefore required to bolster our economic gains.

8. This includes commencing the expansion of offer lists... and organizing trainings and dedicated sessions for entrepreneurs.

9. **Second**, fostering halal economies.

10. Global halal market is projected to reach USD 10 trillion by 2030.

11. Two D-8 Member States are currently among top 10 exporters to OIC countries.

12. Leveraging this opportunity must begin within our camp.

13. For example, engaging with business communities to broaden halal market access... and working towards mutual recognition of halal standards.

14. **Third**, on the admission of new members.

15. Expanding D-8 membership could reinvigorate collaboration and boost its global visibility.

16. Such expansion must align with the organization's best interests...as stipulated within D-8 Charter.

17. **Lastly**, regarding D-8 Secretariat's budget.

18. Sustainable financing for our organization must be a foremost priority, though it must align with economic realities.

19. Indonesia welcomes the agreement reached at the virtual meeting on 2025 budget, and underscores the need to gradually replenish the Reserve Fund.

20. We also commend the Secretariat's initiatives to expand collaboration with other organizations, to ensure efficiency in its works.

21. Addressing financial constraints will enable us to advance cooperation to other critical areas, such as climate change and women's economic empowerment.

22. To conclude, let me reiterate our steadfast commitment to the organization in driving our growth... and contributing effectively to the global agenda.

23. Thank you.

48th Session of the D8 Commission

Cairo, 16 December 2024

Remarks by Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari

D-8 Commissioner

the Islamic Republic of Iran

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as our Chairman. We are confident that under your chairmanship, this meeting will be successful preparatory meeting for our ministerial council and the Summit. We appreciate Secretary General Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam as well as his wonderful team in the D-8 Secretariat for all efforts.

I am obliged to welcome the new commissioners from Bangladesh, Malaysia and Türkiye and Malaysia and congratulate them for their appointment and wish their predecessors all the best in their new assignment.

As you mentioned, this meeting is not a regular Commission meeting and we need to focus on preparation for the Council and the Summit. We have

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an extensive agenda today and, therefore, I avoid making a normal statement and limit myself to few remarks.

This Summit is held at a very critical time of unprecedented developments in our region. The special session of the Summit on situation in Palestine and Lebanon is an important initiative taken by Egypt. We have already submitted our views to enrich two outcome documents, namely Cairo Declaration and Joint Communiqué on Situation in Palestine and Lebanon.

Another feature of this Summit is that for the first time in D8 history, Member States are ready to accept a new member. We support the idea that we need to open our Organization for more new members.

To conclude my initial remarks, Mr. Chairman, please rely on our full support and consider us as part of your team.

I thank you.

STATEMENT BY

MR. AMIZAL FADZLI RAJALI

D-8 COMMISSIONER FOR MALAYSIA

AT THE 48th D-8 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

CAIRO, EGYPT

16-17 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT BY
MR. AMIZAL FADZLI RAJALI
D-8 COMMISSIONER FOR MALAYSIA
AT THE 48th D-8 COMMISSIONERS MEETING
CAIRO, EGYPT
16-17 DECEMBER 2024

Statement By Malaysia.

His Excellency Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby
The Chair of the 48th D-8 Commission Meeting

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

Distinguished Commissioners,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

First, please allow me to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Ragui and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm hospitality extended to the Malaysia delegation for this meeting. Let me also thank Ambassador Imam and his team at the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

2. As the new Commissioner of Malaysia, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to this august meeting as the new D-8 Commissioner for Malaysia, and I look forward to share my hope collaborating with fellow Commissioners to strengthen our partnerships and advance the collective objectives of the D-8.

3. Please allow me to also join the Chair in welcoming Her Excellency Dr. Asima Rabbani as the new D-8 Commissioner for Pakistan; His Excellency Dunoma Umar Ahmed as the new D-8 Commissioner for the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and His Excellency Ambassador Tareq Ahmed as the new D-8 Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Their expertise, leadership, and fresh perspectives will undoubtedly be a tremendous advantage to D-8 as an Organisation, contributing to its growth and success in addressing the priorities of its Member States.

4. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences on the passing of the former D-8 Commissioner for Pakistan, Dr Diyar Khan. His untimely passing following a brief illness is a great loss to the Organisation. May his soul rest in peace, and may his family and loved ones find solace and comfort during this time of loss.

Fellow Commissioners,

D-8 Expansion

5. The establishment of D-8 is now coming to its 28th year. It is in our interest to consider the expansion of the Organisation. On the accession of new members, Malaysia wishes to reiterate our stand and remain supportive of Azerbaijan's membership application. Azerbaijan's desire to enhance cooperation with the D-8

Member States and to become a catalyst for new joint initiatives would expand our programmes' reach to more people.

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

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

The D-8 Private Sector Initiatives

8. Malaysia acknowledges the importance of enhanced private-sector engagement in the Organisation's activities. We believe these initiatives would produce progressive results and further improve the socio-economic levels of our Members. Malaysia hopes that work on the existing private initiatives could be expedited.

9. Two Malaysian-led initiatives, the D-8 Creative Economic and Financial Centre (D-8 CEFC) and D-8 Payment Card have made positive progress in the past year and we hope that Member States will be able to utilize the platforms in the near future.

10. On D-8 PTA, Malaysia wishes to inform that we had operationalised D-8 PTA on 1 October 2023.

D-8 Secretariat's Budgets for 2025

11. At our last Senior Officials Meeting, we discussed at length the critical issues concerning the Secretariat's budget for 2025 onwards, particularly concerning the growing cost of the staff's salaries and remuneration.

12. Malaysia acknowledges that the fluctuations and uncertainties in the global economy have indirectly impacted the consumer price index and inflationary rate in Istanbul; and that it necessitates budgetary adjustments.

13. While Malaysia supports the proposed adjustments of the 2025 budget in principle, we view that the matter would require policy decisions by the respective Member States.

New Secretary-General of D-8

14. Malaysia welcomes Pakistan's nomination of the incoming Secretary-General for the term 2026-2029. Malaysia looks forward to working closely with the new Secretary General during his term.

Conclusion

15. Malaysia stands ready and looks forward to working with the Secretariat and all the Member States to build a better future for the D-8 and its people. I wish all of us a successful meeting.

Thank you.



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

AMB. DUNOMA UMAR AHMED, *PhD.*

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

DURING

THE 48TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION

AT ST. REGIS HOTEL

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL CAIRO, EGYPT

16 – 17 DECEMBER 2024

Your Excellencies, D-8 Commissioners

Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8.

Distinguished Delegates.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to participate in the 48th Session of the D-8 Commission for the first time since I assumed duty as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. On behalf of the government and good people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this organization. I am grateful for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation since our arrival in Cairo for this meeting. I have no doubt that our organization will gather greater momentum under your leadership to support economic growth and sustainable development in member states.

3. Allow me also to commend the contributions of Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of D-8, and his wonderful team for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

4. This year's theme, **"Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy,"** is apt, coming at a time when the Federal Government of Nigeria, through H. E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, is giving special attention to youth empowerment and development and when Governments at the Federal and State levels are vigorously pursuing youth empowerment and development policies aimed at creating opportunities and avenues that can empower the Nigerian youth to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the country at large.

5. The youth are, without doubt, the bedrock, foundation, and future of every meaningful society. Consequently, any nation that wants to achieve rapid transformation and development must carefully and consciously prioritize the welfare and education of the youth to prepare them for self-growth, prosperity, leadership and national development.

6. Nigeria has a large and vibrant youth constituting over 45% of the country's population which is considered an important asset and for this reason, governments at all levels are partnering with the relevant stakeholders to create job and other opportunities for the youths, as the government believes in their potential and ability to play transformational roles in the country's economy as leaders of tomorrow.

7. We believe that improving our youth's entrepreneurial skills will undoubtedly have a revibrating impact on the overall economic well-being of our respective populations and the nation in general. Therefore, we must bolster partnerships in technological exchange and share expertise amongst ourselves to develop SMEs which will galvanise the youth for economic growth and sustainable development. Nigeria stands ready and looks forward to working with all Member States and the Secretariat for Youth Empowerment in Technology, Agriculture, and Digital Economy to build a better future for our teeming youth.

Your Excellencies,

8. Permit me to once again applaud Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General, for his leadership in steering the affairs of the Organization since 1st January 2022 and to express our gratitude to you all for the kind support accorded him throughout his tenure. As the tenure of Ambassador Imam comes to a remarkable and fulfilling end, I wish to assure the incoming Secretary-General from Pakistan of Nigeria's unflinching support cooperation. Similarly, and in the spirit of cordial relations and adequate representation at the Directorate level in the Secretariat, Nigeria supports the candidate of Türkiye for the position of Director I.

9. To consolidate this Organization's gains and create the right conditions for its advancement, I encourage us to critically examine the financial and manpower challenges facing the Secretariat's operations and proffer recommendations capable of rejuvenating the organization for the consideration of the Ministerial Council.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The situation in Gaza deserves our attention. We must unite our efforts to end Israel's aggression in Gaza by advocating for peace and global cooperation. As the world faces increasing tensions due to political differences that impact the socio-economic aspects of international trends, we must explore new avenues to enhance our organization's resilience. This includes considering the expansion of the D-8 Membership to accommodate new members and re-position the Organization to achieve its objectives.

11. As I conclude, may I reiterate Nigeria's readiness to deepen its multilateral cooperation with the D-8 and its Member States so we can together confront the developmental challenges we face and further commit to our shared efforts towards fostering economic growth and socio-economic well-being of our citizens.

12. I thank you all.

Statement for 48th Session of the D-8 Commission

16-17 December 2024

Cairo, Egypt

Honourable Chair, Amb Rugui El Etreby

Secretary-General of D-8, Amb Isaka Abdulqadir

Distinguished Commissioner,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Egypt on assuming the position of Chair. We also extend our gratitude to Bangladesh for their excellent work over the past three years.

I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Egypt for hosting this important meeting. Let me also express my gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to all of us.

Egypt's rich cultural heritage and strategic importance align with the goals of our organization. This makes Cairo a perfect venue for our deliberations. As one of the oldest cities in the world, Cairo has stood as a beacon of history, culture, and civilization for centuries. Its legacy as a center of learning, trade, and diplomacy continues to inspire global cooperation.

I would also like to commend the D-8 Secretariat and in particular the Secretary General for his diligent efforts in organizing this meeting and preparing the comprehensive agenda that will guide our discussions.

Honourable Chair,

We look forward to a week ahead of important meetings of the D-8 Forum. Today we begin with the two-day Commissioners Meeting. This will be followed by the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Summit. We are confident that these meetings will lead to key decisions that will shape the future of our organization.

In a very first this time a special session has been dedicated to humanitarian crises in Gaza and Lebanon an issue that is closer to the heart of all the member states. Pakistan deeply appreciates Egypt's leadership in bringing this critical issue to the forefront, highlighting the ongoing military campaign by Israel that demand our urgent attention. The situation in Gaza represents a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale, with innocent civilians, including women and

children, bearing the brunt of relentless aggression. Similarly, the people of Lebanon face immense hardships that require coordinated global support.

The leadership of Pakistan feels a moral duty to raise this issue and bring it to the attention of the international community. The presence of our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister at the upcoming D-8 meetings is a manifestation of our resolve.

Honourable Chair

One of the main agenda under our consideration is the expansion of D-8. Expansion of any organization is essential to maintain its vibrancy. Growth brings new ideas, energy, and opportunities. It is important that we finalize the criteria for new memberships. This will allow us to welcome new member states into the D-8.

We fully support the Republic of Azerbaijan's application for membership in the D-8, which was officially submitted in 2021. We hope the Commission will reach a consensus to provide clear recommendations to the D-8 Council of Ministers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of the D-8 Secretariat. Their efforts in organizing this meeting and preparing comprehensive documents deserve our recognition. The Secretariat plays a crucial role in facilitating dialogue and ensuring the smooth functioning of our organization. We thank them for their invaluable contributions to our shared success.

It is in this spirit that the senior official meeting, member states have agreed to increase their contributions considering the impact of inflation. This decision reflects our commitment to ensuring the Secretariat has the resources it needs to function optimally. We hope that adequate funding will enable the Secretariat to carry out its responsibilities effectively and advance the goals of the D-8.

Honourable chair

We hope to reach consensus in the Commission meeting on the Draft Cairo Declaration 2024. This important document, prepared with commendable efforts by Egypt and the D-8 Secretariat, reflects the shared vision and priorities of our member states. We hope to present a consensus draft to the Council of Ministers for their consideration and adoption, paving the way for its formal endorsement at the 11th D-8 Summit.

Honourable Chair and dear Commissioners,

Pakistan has begun offering one fully funded seat to D-8 member states in our Junior and Advanced Diplomatic Courses at the Foreign Service Academy. So far, we have offered seats in

three courses, and we are pleased that Bangladesh and Indonesia have already participated. Another seat will be available in February/March 2025, and we hope to have a diplomat attending this course.

In an important development, Pakistan will be notifying its rules of origin today. Additionally, we are expecting the Cabinet's approval of the Protocol on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) today.

Finally, Pakistan is pleased to express its readiness to host the second meeting of the D-8 Research Centre at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, at a mutually convenient date, in consultation with the D-8 Secretariat and Member States. We are also prepared to co-host the Task Force on 'Safety & Security,' chaired by Malaysia with Pakistan as Deputy Chair, in a virtual format. These initiatives reflect Pakistan's commitment to advancing the D-8's objectives and strengthening collaboration among member states in key areas of interest.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Egypt for its warm hospitality and leadership.

48th Session of the D-8 Commission
16-17 December 2024
Cairo, Egypt

Statement by Ambassador Aylin Sekizkök, Türkiye's D-8 Commissioner

Agenda Item 4: Statements by the Heads of Delegations

Excellencies,

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to us by the host country, Egypt.

Also, special thanks to Secretary General Ambassador Imam and the Secretariat for their relentless efforts during the preparation period.

Dear colleagues,

This meeting is very timely as we are facing tremendous challenges at regional and global levels.

These challenges remind us of the critical importance of strengthened cooperation and effective coordination.

We have important items on our agenda.

We wish to have a fruitful Commission meeting with substantial results.

I hope that we will be able to take important decisions for the benefit of our organization and for the further enhancement of our cooperation.

Having said that, I would like to briefly touch upon few issues.

First of all, we are happy that the proposed Secretariat Budget for 2025 was finalized during the three virtual Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs) and recommended to this Commission for our consideration and adoption.

I am happy to confirm our support to the proposed Secretariat Budget for 2025.

Secondly, we believe that the expansion of our Organization through the creation of new partnerships as well as the accession of new members and observers would strengthen our collective efforts.

This is why the membership application of the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the most important items of our agenda.

The brotherly Azerbaijan is an exemplary developing country, which meets all the membership criteria mentioned in the D-8 Charter.

More than that, it possesses a huge potential in many areas of work of the D-8 and can make significant contributions to our organization.

We can and we should immediately process the existing application, which was made nearly 3 years ago.

Finally, we would like to commend the Chair's decision to hold a Special Session on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon.

We had the pleasure to host the Extraordinary Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers to Discuss the Situation in Gaza on 8 June 2024 in İstanbul.

We believe we should continue to pay attention to matters that also negatively affect our economic cooperation.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish you all a successful Commission meeting.

**Rules of procedures for implementing Article 3 of the D-8 Charter
regarding accession of new members to the
D-8 Organization**

Guided by the purpose and principles of the Charter of D-8 and provisions of the Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the D-8 Charter, following Criteria and Modalities will be applied for granting the membership:

Criteria for independent States as Members

1. The applicant States shall commit to adhere to the objectives and principles of the Organization, as contained in Articles 1 and 3.5 of the Charter.
2. *The applicant State shall possess comparable socio-economic level of development as that of existing member States.*
3. Without prejudice to the membership drive, in accepting new members, D-8 may consider ensuring the balanced (equitable) geographical representation.

Modalities for Granting Full Membership

1. The application of the interested state must be submitted formally in writing to the Secretary-General of the D-8.
2. The application shall be accompanied by a formal declaration indicating its willingness to adhere to the purposes and principles of the Organization.
3. On receipt, the Secretary-General shall circulate the application to all Member States and submit the application to the Commission for their consideration.
4. Subject to the recommendation of the Council of Minister, the Summit may approve the application, by consensus, for granting membership to the D-8 organization.

Rules of procedures for implementing Article 4 of the D-8 Charter regarding granting Observer status to the D-8 Organization

Guided by the provisions of the Article 4 of the D-8 Charter, following Criteria and Modalities will be applied for granting the observer status.

Criteria for Independent States/Countries

1. The applicant shall commit to adhere to the objectives and principles of the Organization, as contained in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter.
2. Having the capacity and willingness to do so, the applicant may make a practical and valuable contribution to the Organization i.e., possible contribution to certain projects and / or events to be determined by the D-8 Council of Ministers.

Modalities for Granting Observer status for Independent States/Countries

1. The application of the interested state must be submitted formally in writing to the Secretary-General of the D-8.
2. The application shall be accompanied by a formal declaration indicating its willingness to adhere to the purposes and principles of the Organization.
3. On receipt, the Secretary-General shall circulate the application to all Member States and submit the application to the Commission for their consideration.
4. Subject to the recommendation of the Session of the Commission, the Council of Ministers may approve the application, by consensus, for granting an observer status.
5. Observer may participate in the opening and closing session of the principal organs and may participate in activities or relevant technical meetings of the Organization.
6. Decision to suspend or terminate the observer status may be decided in accordance with the Article 4 (4) of the D-8 Charter.

Criteria for Regional and International Organizations as Observers

The observer status may be accorded to inter-governmental Organization with similar objectives and principles to those of D-8.

Modalities for Granting Observer Status for Regional and International Organizations

1. Head of the applicant Organization shall submit an official request for the grant of observer status to the Secretary General of the D-8.
2. The application shall be accompanied by a formal declaration indicating its willingness to adhere to the purposes and principles of the Organization.
3. On receipt, Secretary-General shall circulate the application to all Member States and submit the application to the Commission for its consideration.
4. Any particular application for Observer Status should be discussed and decided at a maximum of two (2) Commission meetings.
5. In the situation where no consensus could be reached after the two Commission meetings, the application may not be considered further.

Doc: D-8/COM/48

Dated: 16-17 December 2024

Adopted at the 48th Commission 16 December 2024

**Draft Agenda of the
Eleventh D-8 Summit
Cairo, Egypt
19 December 2024**

Family Photo of Heads of State/Government

1. Opening of the Summit
 - Recitation of the Holy Quran
 - Opening remarks by the Chief Adviser of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and handing over of the Chairmanship to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
 - Welcome statement by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda.
3. Report by the D-8 Secretary-General on the activities of the Organization since the Tenth D-8 Summit.
4. Statements by Heads of State / Government.
5. Statements by Special Guests.
6. Consideration and adoption of the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan.
7. Consideration and endorsement of the nomination of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood as next Secretary-General from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
8. Consideration and adoption of the Reports of the 20th ,21st and Special Sessions of the D-8 Council of Ministers.
9. Consideration and adoption of the Cairo Declaration 2024.
10. Closing remarks by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt as the Chairman of the D-8.

Special Session on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon

1. Statement by the Chair, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. Statement by the President of the State of Palestine
3. Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon
4. Statements by the Heads of States / Governments of member states.
5. Statements by Special Guests / Representatives of International and Regional Organizations.
6. Adoption of D-8 Leaders Joint Communique on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon.
7. Closing by the Chair, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Draft Agenda of the
21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers
18 December 2024, Cairo**

Agenda Item 1: Opening

- a) Opening Statement by the Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as the immediate past Chair-in-Office of the D-8 Council.
- b) Hand-over of Chair of the D-8 Council of Ministers from the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- c) Welcome Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chairman-in-office of the D-8 Council.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of the D-8 Organization's Progress Report by the D-8 Secretary-General

Agenda Item 4: Statements by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation (*Three Minutes each*)

Agenda Item 5: The D-8 Organization Expansion

- a. Consideration and approval of the procedure of granting Observer Status and Permitting the Accession of New Members into the Organization.
- b. Consideration and approval on the membership application by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration and approval of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood as next Secretary-General, nominated by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Agenda Item 7: Preparation for the 11th D-8 Summit

- a. Finalization and endorsement of the draft Agenda of the 11th D-8 Summit.
- b. Consideration and endorsement of the draft Cairo Declaration 2024.
- c. Consideration and approval of the draft Joint Communiqué on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Approval of the Reports of the 46th, 47th, 48th, and Special Sessions of the D-8 Commission

Agenda Item 9: Consideration and Approval of the Secretariat Budget and Authorization of the General Reserve Funds for 2025

- a. D-8 Secretariat budget for 2023 and 2024
- b. D-8 Secretariat budget for 2025
- c. Authorization of General Reserve Funds for 2025

Agenda Item 10: Approval of the Audit Report 2021-2022

Agenda Item 11: Date and venue of the 22nd Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers

Agenda Item 12: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of 21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers

Closing of the Meeting

- a. Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General
- b. Closing Remarks by the Chair-in-office of the D-8 Organization.

DRAFT
CAIRO DECLARATION 2024

We, the Heads of State and Government/Representatives 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, forming the membership of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), gathered in Cairo on 19 December 2024, on the occasion of our Eleventh Summit, being held under the theme, “Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy.”

Reiterating our pledge to advance our shared development goals under the principles of fraternity, peace, dialogue, justice, equality, rule of law, and democracy, established during the founding of the D-8, as encapsulated in our previous Summit Declarations.

Acknowledging our past progress should serve as a catalyst to renew our focus and intensify our efforts in addressing today's challenges, particularly in the light of the evolving global landscape.

Reiterating the value of unity, equality, mutual respect, and economic cooperation, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing partnerships in priority areas of cooperation, including agriculture and food security, energy, science, technology, industry, development of small and medium enterprises, infrastructure, trade, investment and transportation, to promote inclusive and equitable development that benefits our nations.

Reaffirming our shared endeavor to implement the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 to deepen further economic cooperation, aligned with UN Development Agenda.

Reaffirming our faith in multilateralism and the importance of enhanced cooperation within the D-8 framework and with relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations, and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) including strengthening South-South Cooperation, that is vital for promoting sustainable development, fostering peace, and addressing global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and inequality.

Realizing that the full and Organization-wide operationalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA), the Multilateral Agreement among D-8 Member Countries on Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (D-8 Customs Agreement), the Agreement on "Simplification of Visa Procedures, for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States" (D-8 Visa Agreement) and transformation of the D-8 PTA into a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement will propel our economic power to a new height.

Emphasizing the need to promote investment opportunities and to increase intra D-8 trade with efficient mechanisms including on-line platforms, while also committing to inclusive growth, through the promotion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in

emerging sectors such as digital trade, e-commerce, and fintech, to ensure economic empowerment for all and intensifying efforts in improving logistics, transport, and regulatory frameworks.

Reaffirming our commitment to advancing cooperation in science, technology, and innovation through the existing mechanisms, to study key indicators and assess digital transformation opportunities, including emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), to support our objectives.

Highlighting the importance of addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Recalling decision 14/30 of UNCBD COP14 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, adopted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which the parties welcomed the initiative of the Government of Egypt to promote a coherent approach between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation.

Emphasizing the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural practices, as part of our collective endeavors to ensure food security and safety.

Acknowledging all Member States' participation in the Organization's activities must be strengthened, under the principle of fraternity and dialogue among members, in expanding our cooperation to achieve our shared objectives, and to that end.

We hereby,

1. **Appreciate** and commend the People's Republic of Bangladesh for its excellent stewardship and tireless efforts, since taking over the Chair's role in April 2021, which enabled the D-8 Member States to make significant progress in enhancing cooperation in our key areas of cooperation, as well as organizational expansion, visibility, and international collaboration and partnership, and **extend** our profound appreciation to the leadership of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for their commitment and dedicated efforts in advancing the D-8 objectives, during their chairmanship of the Organization.
2. **Express** our heartfelt gratitude to **His Excellency Abdel Fattah-El-Sisi**, Honorable President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as the Egyptian government and people, for successfully hosting the 11th D-8 Summit, and providing such gracious hospitality, and as such, pledge our full support and wish His Excellency the President, tremendous success as the Chair of the D-8 Organization.
3. Acknowledge the commendable work of **His Excellency, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam**, the Secretary-General of the D-8, during his tenure, which commenced on 1 January 2022, and appreciate his determination and meaningful efforts over the last three years, including, in effectively, managing the D-8 Secretariat.

4. **Welcome** the fruitful collaboration with many national, regional, and international organizations, such as the United Nations, the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the Standards and Metrology Institute of the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, the World Tourism Forum Institute, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and encourage a more profound and broader collaboration with these organizations, to get support necessary for the realization of initiatives and projects to achieve the D-8 objectives.
5. **Applaud** the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council, which the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will host in Dhaka and call on Member States to support its functioning to foster youth cooperation in the D-8 and, in the same vein, appreciate the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for hosting the First Ministerial Meeting on Youth on 22 May 2024, and look forward to the hosting of the Second Ministerial Meeting on Youth by Nigeria. Encourages the Member States to organize joint activities in the field of youth by taking best practices into account and invite the Secretariat to coordinate these activities within the framework of “the D-8 Cooperation Action Plan for Youth” to be prepared in line with the proposals of the Member States with reference to the Dhaka Declaration on Youth. Invites the Secretariat and Member States to continue to work in cooperation on the Constitution of the D-8 Youth Council until the Second Ministerial Meeting on Youth.
6. **Commend** the Arab Republic of Egypt for selecting “Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy” as the theme for this Summit, and welcome the initiative proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a D-8 mechanism to support the innovative ideas of the D-8 youth, and Iran's readiness to hold exhibitions as well as scientific/technological/entrepreneurship tours and specialized meetings with the participation of the youth from the D-8 Member States.
7. **Express** appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their commitment to hosting the D-8 Center for Small and Medium Enterprises in Abuja, including the provision of initial resources to facilitate its operationalization. Recognizing the Center's potential to advance entrepreneurship and collaboration among D-8 Member States, we encourage the timely completion of its setup and call on all Member States to extend their support – whether technical, financial or through capacity-building – to ensure its effective and sustainable operation.
8. **Congratulate** the People's Republic of Bangladesh for organizing the Third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (3rd TMC) in Dhaka on 5 March 2024, as well as the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the Informal Meeting of the Trade Ministers Council of

the D-8 Member States (Informal TMC) in Istanbul on 11 June 2024, which marked significant progress in advancing D-8 trade policies.

9. **Welcome** the announcement by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in 2025, to further enhance existing D-8 trade policies especially through the participation and active engagement of SMEs; and to deliberate new mechanisms to expand and diversify trade among D-8 Member States, through digital trade facilitation platforms, e-commerce, and AI driven technologies.
10. **Welcome** the upcoming ratification by the Arab Republic of Egypt of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA), marking the monumental milestone that all D-8 Member States are now Contracting Members of the D-8 PTA.
11. **Reiterate** the importance of effective implementation and operationalization of the D-8 PTA by all Contracting Members, including organizing capacity-building programs for relevant officials and appreciate that five Contracting Members have completed their internal procedures, to implement the D-8 PTA and call on those ready, to commence trading, under the framework of the D-8 PTA, without delay, to achieve the collective target of its value to at least 10% of the D-8 total external trade value, or at least US\$ 500 billion, by 2030, as outlined in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030, and welcome the proposal to expand the D-8 PTA scope to meaningfully and equitably cover a wider array of significantly traded products, among the D-8 Member States, to make it more attractive to business entities.
12. **Acclaim** the adoption of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol to the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA), during the 3rd TMC in Dhaka on 5 March 2024 and its subsequent signing by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, and Türkiye, during the Informal TMC in Istanbul, and call on the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to devise means to expedite the process for the Protocol's entry-into-force, as seamless and as most straightforward as possible.
13. **Note with keen interest** the discourse on the need to upgrade the D-8 PTA to a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, to enable the D-8 to be a more dynamic, powerful, competitive, and impactful economic bloc, including to venturing into potential sectors for trade in services, in the next phase of cooperation and tasked the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to conduct a study, scoping exercise, and comparative analysis, to identify the modalities and way forward, for the expansion of the D-8 PTA.
14. **Applaud** the adoption of the D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy, during the Third Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, which serves as a guideline for the D-8 Member States to strengthen intra-D-8 trade, by facilitating more accessible trade measures and Customs procedures, and call upon prompt implementation among Member States.

15. **Congratulate** Nigeria for assuming the Chair of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA starting in May 2024 and thank Bangladesh for their role as the immediate past Chair of the Committee.
16. **Welcome** the proposal to strengthen broader economic cooperation, through regular meetings of the economic ministers and their subsequent technical bodies of the D-8 Member States to provide a clear recommendation on crucial economic cooperation, including various novel ideas, to further promote the achievement of the D-8 economic objectives.
17. **Underline** the tremendous potentials of halal economy and commit to work together in boosting collaboration in this sector through capacity building initiatives and exchange of best practices to support the development of SMEs in halal industries.
18. **Direct** the D-8 Secretariat to conduct studies to devise ways to facilitate easier movement of businesspeople, among the D-8 Member States, guided by the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the D-8 Member States.
19. **Emphasize** the importance of enhancing agricultural productivity, improving food security, and fostering rural development through joint initiatives, agricultural innovation, resilient agri-food systems, including sustainable farming techniques, sustainable land and water management practices, and the adoption of modern agricultural technologies, while reaffirming our commitment to fostering agricultural trade and strengthening food supply chains among us, while highlighting the need to increase resilience to external shocks, such as climate change, pandemics, and geopolitical disruptions, and to that end, commend the 7th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security hosted virtually by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Dhaka on 13 January 2022.
20. **Commend** efforts by the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS) in Faisalabad, Pakistan, in organizing activities and training programs, under the joint action plan, signed with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).
21. **Commit** to enhancing cooperation in sustainable tourism, cultural exchange, and heritage preservation, to promote mutual understanding and socio-economic development, as tourism is a vital economic sector, for D-8 Member States and, for such a purpose, encourage Member States to develop joint initiatives, to boost intra-D-8 tourism, such as simplifying visa procedures, improving regional tourism infrastructures, and implementing collaborative marketing strategies.
22. **Welcome** the announcement by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the fourth D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Aswan, in 2025, and congratulate the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for successfully hosting the Third D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism on 5 August 2023.

23. **Commend** the D-8 Secretariat for successfully launching the inaugural D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award and congratulate the City of Antalya in the Republic of Türkiye, on its selection as the first D-8 Tourism City of the Year 2025, and express confidence that this initiative will boost tourism, encourage investment, infrastructure development, and cultural exchange, while promoting healthy competition among Member States, and to that end, call on all Member States to support this important initiative and promote travel to Antalya in 2025.
24. **Acknowledge** the need to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, including through engagement with the relevant international organizations, to promote the development and application of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy and to foster private sector investment in new and renewable energy, to assist our countries in their pathways to just transition.
25. **Commend** the Organization's effort to improve cooperation in enhancing connectivity, including a more substantive collaboration in air connectivity and civil aviation, and appreciate the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 12th meeting of the Director General and Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation (DGCA) in Bali, Indonesia, from 20 – 21 October 2022, and the Republic of Türkiye, for hosting the 13th D-8 Meeting of the DGCA in Antalya, Türkiye, from 12 – 14 November 2024.
26. **Emphasize** that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.
27. **Call for** allocating adequate, predictable and accessible finance from developed to developing countries, for just energy transition, in line with the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities - CBDR-RC. Stressing that new industrial development models associated with this transition would require enormous investments in existing and new infrastructure.
28. **Underline** the importance of an ocean-based economy to support our shared objectives, while prioritizing the protection of marine biodiversity, promoting sustainable fisheries management, and ensuring the conservation of critical habitats to sustain livelihoods and ecological health by harnessing cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture, renewable ocean energy, seaports and shipping, marine biotechnology, offshore hydrocarbons and seabed minerals, deep sea mining, including through public-private-partnership, to attract investment in this sector.
29. **Encourage** cooperation, among D-8 Member States' academic communities and commend the D-8 Secretariat for establishing the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI), chaired by COMSATS University in Islamabad, Pakistan, which, to date, is participated by 28 prominent universities from six Member States, and encourage the remaining Member States to invite their research-focused universities to participate, to

enable the NPRI to play a more significant role in promoting innovation and research as well as advancing commercialization and project-based development, share of experience in developing research strategy, and visit to various research institutions, across all Member States, and as such, we commend the University of Ilorin of Nigeria, for hosting the Third Meeting of the D-8 NPRI in Ilorin, Nigeria, in November 2024.

30. **Welcome** the Arab Republic of Egypt's initiative to establish the D-8 Network for Economic Think Tanks, to serve as a platform for sharing information, exchanging ideas, and enhancing partnerships among think tanks in order to develop informed solutions to the pressing economic development challenges, facing the D-8 Member States, foster economic cooperation and trade, promote the sharing of best practices in economic development, and enhance capacity building in areas such as trade facilitation, entrepreneurship, innovation and digital economy and trade.
31. **Commend** the cooperation in human resource development, including the institutionalization of Diplomatic Training for the Diplomats from the D-8 Member States, which will serve as an investment for the future, by promoting networking from an early stage and noted with utmost appreciation to Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Türkiye, for already organizing diplomatic training, in their respective institutions, and call on other Member States to organize similar programs.
32. **Welcome** the Arab Republic of Egypt's initiative to establish a network for diplomatic institutes and academies in D-8 Member States to foster cooperation among them through [EG] creating a platform for regular dialogue on emerging issues in diplomatic and foreign policy training, encouraging the exchange of ideas among institutes, coordinating on the development of cutting-edge training programs, enhancing the quality and relevance of courses and programs offered by participating institutes, and creating a virtual space for joint discussions on topics such as development, economic diplomacy, food security, energy, trade policies, and climate change.
33. **Applaud** the commendable efforts of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) in Tehran, in fostering cooperation among D-8 countries, through encouraging transfer of technology and the exchange of best practices and recognize the significant impact of regular events, organized by D-8 TTEN, such as the Technology Investment Meeting (TIM), the Business & Technology Meeting (BTM), and the Technology Transfer Award (TTA), in promoting innovation and collaboration. Furthermore, we commend the forward-looking proposals put forth by D-8 TTEN, including the D-8 AI initiative and the D-8 Co-Fund Initiative (D-8 CoFI), which aim to strengthen technological advancement and investment, within the D-8 community and call on Member States, to actively engage in and support these initiatives, for the collective progress of our nations.
34. **Welcome** the Collaborative Education Initiative by the Arab Republic of Egypt, to strengthen educational and scientific collaboration among D-8 Member States, through

establishing a periodic online competition for university and vocational students in the fields of artificial intelligence, engineering, science and applied technology with the aim to enhance student engagement through the recognition of their skills, and to foster innovation by encouraging students to develop creative solutions to global and regional challenges.

35. **Highlight** the huge potential impacts of new and emerging technologies, including AI, on our peoples and economies, we instruct the ICT related Ministries in D-8 to seriously consider the optimal ways and means to utilize these technologies for enhanced resilience, nationally and collectively, against possible future shocks. In this regard, welcome the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran that the upcoming meeting of the D-8 ICT Standing Committee, to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, should start working on the above instruction.
36. **Appreciate** the Islamic Republic of Iran for its continued support to the D-8 International University (D-8 IU) in Hamadan and commend the University for its efforts in expanding academic collaboration and fostering international research, through initiatives such as the 'International Bridge Initiative' and its diverse webinars and workshops, and encourage the Member States to support and contribute into its programs and activities.
37. **Call on** the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), to play a more significant role in strengthening economic cooperation, particularly trade and other business activities, through enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the private sector and facilitating and coordinating business activities, by supporting innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship, as well as promoting cross-border trade and economic cooperation among Member States, and for such an objective, encourage the D-8 CCI to increase business-to-business engagement, among all D-8 Member States, by conducting business forums, one-on-one business matchmakings, business missions, and exchange of information on business opportunities.
38. **Welcome** the hosting by the Arab Republic of Egypt of the Fourth General Assembly of the D-8 CCI on the 17th of December 2024, which witnessed the handover of the D-8 CCI Chairmanship from Bangladesh to Egypt.
39. **Applaud** the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program (D-8 HSP) for carrying out a study on the revitalization of the therapeutic goods health market and hosting the First D-8 Forum on SME and Health in Abuja on 26-27 October 2022, and encourage Member States to promote trade in healthcare, particularly in pharmaceutical goods to ensure equitable access to health care and health products, and at the same time call on D-8 HSP, the D-8 TTEN, the D-8 NPRI, and the D-8 IU, to work together towards promotion of inter-state knowledge sharing, collaborative initiatives in health technology, and pharmaceutical innovation. In this regard Member States can work towards harmonizing their regulatory framework in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) standards and undertake

knowledge sharing, as well as collaborative initiatives in health technology and pharmaceutical innovation through mutual recognition agreements (MRAs).

40. **Welcome** the proposal by the Arab Republic of Egypt to strengthen D-8 health cooperation, through regular convening of meetings of health ministers and the subsequent technical bodies of the D-8 Member States and welcome the announcement by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the first D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health, in 2025, to discuss measures to advance preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative health care, and to accelerate universal health coverage in D-8 Member States, through the inclusion of women and youth, not only as recipients of health care, but also as partners, in health policy making and implementation, including through utilizing digital technology and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.
41. **Encourage** the Secretariat to continue promoting private sector initiatives, including the D-8 Payment Card, the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center, and the D-8 New Generation Barter Trading. Urge all relevant ministries/agencies and institutions of Member States, to collaborate, closely, with the Secretariat to assess the feasibility of implementing these initiatives.
42. **Renew** our shared commitment to enhancing cooperation in disaster management, including strengthening joint efforts in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response, through collaborating on early warning systems, knowledge-sharing on best practices, and capacity-building initiatives to mitigate the impact of disasters.
43. **Underscore** our resolve to promote the economic empowerment of women, as a key driver of economic growth, and sustainable development, including enhancing opportunities for women in entrepreneurship, leadership, and the labor market, driven by the recognition of the vital role of women, in the economic and social progress of their nations, through eliminating barriers to women's economic participation, provide access to financial resources, and support initiatives that foster skills development and innovation, and task the D-8 Council, to work on this novel endeavor.
44. **Reaffirm** our opposition to any unilateral economic sanctions, imposed on D-8 Member States, that undermine global economic stability and violate international legal principles and demand the lifting of such sanctions.
45. **Support** the expansion of D-8 membership in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of the D-8 Charter and appreciate the work concluded by the Council and the Commission to establish criteria and modalities for the new members and observers.
46. **Welcome** the Republic of Azerbaijan's accession as a full member in the D-8 Organization, and task the Council of Ministers to oversee the procedures related to its accession.
47. **Recognize** the importance of having a stronger and more efficient D-8 Secretariat, to ensure that our collective goals are effectively implemented and, therefore, call upon the

Council of Ministers to implement mechanisms to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity and resources.

48. **Endorse** the nomination of the upcoming Secretary-General of the D-8, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who will assume office on 1 January 2026.
49. **Welcome** the Republic of Indonesia as the next Chair of D-8, and profoundly appreciate its gracious offer to host the 12th D-8 Summit, the date and venue of which will be communicated in due course.
50. **Reaffirm** our commitment to promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. In this era of unprecedented global challenges, we must work together to create a more resilient and inclusive future for our people, guided by the values of cooperation, mutual respect, and shared prosperity, and our shared resolve to continue our cooperation, under Egypt's leadership and remain committed to the vision outlined, in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030.

Adopted in Cairo, 19 December 2024.

D-8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024-25

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
Statutory Meetings			
49 th D-8 Commission Meeting & 22 nd Council of Ministers Meeting	2025	Egypt	TBC
Sectoral Cooperation			
4 th Session of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council	Q1 2025	Egypt	TBC
8 th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA	2025	Nigeria	Postponed from 2024
8 th Senior Officials Meeting on Agriculture 8 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	Q1 2025	Nigeria	TBC
7 th Ministerial Meeting on D-8 Industrial Cooperation	2025	TBD	TBC
The Meeting of the SME Governmental Bodies and the Inauguration of the D-8 SME Center	Q1 2025	Nigeria	TBC
5 th Senior Officials meeting on Tourism / 4 th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism	Q1 2025	Egypt	TBC
First D-8 Tourism Investment Forum	2025	Iran/ <small>Sec to prepare the Concept Note</small>	Confirmed date to be announced
1 st D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Energy	2025	TBC	TBC
1 st Ministerial Meeting on Health	2025	Egypt	TBC
2 nd Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings of D-8 Youth	2025	Nigeria	Confirmed
2 nd Ministerial Meeting on Youth	2025	Nigeria	Confirmed

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
4 th Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on the implementation of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures	TBA	Bangladesh	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
14 th D-8 Meeting of Directors-General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation	TBA	TBC	TBA
Task Force on Training & Capacity Building (Chair: Türkiye, Deputy Chair: Nigeria)	TBA	TBC	TBA
Task Force on Commercial Issues (Chair: Indonesia, Deputy Chair: Türkiye) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
Task Force on ‘Safety & Security’ (Chair: Malaysia, Deputy Chair: Pakistan) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
Task Force on Air Navigation & Air Traffic Management (Chair: Iran, Deputy Chair: Indonesia) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
Standing Committee on ICT Virtual	2025	Iran	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
The D-8 Energy ⁱ Forum	TBA	Nigeria	TBC
The 1 st D-8 E-Government Network Meeting ⁱⁱ	TBA	TBC	Proposed
D-8 Games ⁱⁱⁱ	TBA	Member States / Secretariat	Proposed
Technical Meetings/Workshops/Other Activities in Partnership with International Organizations D-II may fill it up			
Capacity Building Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights for Small and Medium Enterprises in the D-8 Member States, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	2025	D-8 Secretariat	Postponement from 2024

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
Workshop on Investment Promotion in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)	2025	D-8 Secretariat	TBC
Meetings of the D-8 Sub-Organizations			
4 th Board of Trustee Meeting of the D-8 International University	TBA	D-8 International University / Iran	TBA
9 th High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN (HCM)	TBA	D-8 TTEN/ Iran	TBA
Second Meeting of the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture (D-8 RCAFS)	TBA	D-8 RCAFS/ Pakistan	TBC
Third Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)	24-27 NOV 2024	University of Ilorin /Nigeria	Confirmed
General Assembly of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI)	TBA	D-8 CCI/ Egypt	TBC
Third Meeting of the D-8 Health and Social protection Program (D-8 HSP)	TBA	D-8 HSP / Nigeria	TBC
Prive Sector-led Cooperation			
Second Meeting of the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (D-8 CEFC)	TBA	Secretariat and Al-Hidayah Group/ Malaysia	TBC
Technical meeting on the D-8 Payment Card	TBA	Secretariat KOMEPS/ Malaysia	TBC

TBA: To be Announced

TBC: To be Confirmed

Draft

Joint Communiqué of the
Heads of State and Government of the D-8 Member States
on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon

Cairo, Egypt, 19 December 2024

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We, the Heads of State and Government 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, forming the Summit of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), as well as the Republic of Azerbaijan, gathered in Cairo on 19 December 2024 at the generous hospitality of H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Honorable President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of our 11th Summit, with the participation of H.E. President of the State of Palestine, H.E. the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as guests of the Egyptian Presidency.

We reiterate our condemnation of the brutal Israeli aggression and the grave violations of the international law, the international humanitarian law and the human rights law by Israel, against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which caused an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe and destruction of disastrous proportion. We warn against the danger of the escalation sweeping the region, the international consequences of the expansion of the Israeli aggression that has lasted for over one year in Gaza, which extended to include Lebanon, and further condemn the violation of sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also stress that this escalation should not impede the navigation in the Red Sea.

We deplore that since October 2023, over 44,000 Palestinians have been killed, 70% of them are women and children, and 105,000 people have been injured. More than 1.9 million people have been forcibly displaced and nearly 70% of the infrastructure in Gaza is destroyed, leaving almost the entire population without food, clean water, healthcare and basic shelter. Over 1,100 healthcare sites have been severely impacted by the Israeli attacks, leading to the resurgence of diseases. The risk of famine persists across the whole Gaza Strip, with 91% of the population projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between November 2024 and April 2025.

We express our concerns that as per the United Nations' report the GDP of the State of Palestine has contracted by around 35% and human development index (HDI) has fallen to 0.64 in 2024 with unemployment potentially rising to almost 50%, and that the HDI in Gaza, in specific, is projected to drop to 0.40, erasing over 20 years of progress.

We call for an immediate, permanent, and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, support the ongoing efforts in this regard, in particular Egypt, and stress the need to fully implement the UNGA and UNSC resolutions to immediately allow the delivery of humanitarian aid in a broad, safe and unhindered manner, and the full and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip. We reiterate, in this regard, the necessity for Israel to lift all restrictions, allow and facilitate humanitarian access to Gaza through its crossings and all available routes, as well to facilitate the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip, including in northern Gaza. We also categorically reject any displacement of Palestinian citizens outside their territory, which is a flagrant violation of International Law, and we call for providing the conditions for safe and unhindered return of displaced persons in Gaza to their homes.

We welcome the adoption of two recent Resolutions pertaining to the inherent rights of Palestinians at the 10th Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 2024, and urge the international community to operationalize these Resolutions in entirety and without delay.

We affirmed our strong support for the irreplaceable and indispensable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza as well as in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in host countries, and we reject any hindrance to the work of the Agency, including the Israeli practices aiming at impeding the Agency's lifesaving services.

We welcome the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/24 and the Provisional Measures Orders issued by the International Court of Justice, including the Order of 24 May 2024, which reaffirmed all previous provisional measures and indicated that Israel immediately halt its military offensive and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part and call upon all countries to ensure that the Orders issued by the Court are implemented without undue delay by Israel. We also call for the full implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice dated July 19, 2024 towards ending the Israeli occupation, removing its effects, and paying compensation for its damages, as soon as possible.

We express our grave concern as well from the illegal Israeli practices in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and reiterate, in this regard, the call to cease all Israeli settlement activities, land annexation, home demolitions, settler violence and military incursions in Palestinian towns of the West Bank. We also stress the necessity of maintaining the legal and historic status quo of the Holy Site in Jerusalem in word and in practice and condemn all Israeli violations in this regard.

The Israeli aggression that was extended to Lebanon and the bombing of Beirut, has also resulted in loss of thousands of innocent civilian lives, massive destruction of houses and infrastructure as well as a grave humanitarian situation. We welcome, in this regard, the ceasefire agreement that came into effect on the 27th of November 2024, and stress that this should contribute to the de-escalation in the region. We also stress the necessity to stop all violations of the agreement and call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The cost of physical damages and economic losses in Lebanon, due to the Israeli aggression, are estimated at 8.5 billion US dollars. Over 4,000 people have been killed and more than 16,000 people have been injured. Lebanon's real GDP growth is estimated to be cut at least by 6.6% in 2024 and almost 100,000 housing units have been partially or fully damaged. Around 1.2 million have been internally displaced, with women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and refugees at highest risk.

Mindful of our shared responsibility to stand with Palestine and Lebanon and to alleviate the damage resulted from the Israeli aggression, we express our commitment to providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, as well as to the Lebanese people, supporting the early recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Gaza and in Lebanon, bilaterally and collectively, and strengthening our support and collaboration with other donor countries and relevant international organizations. We welcome, in this regard, the Cairo Ministerial Conference to enhance the humanitarian response in Gaza, held in Cairo on 2nd of December 2024. We also commit to mobilize overall economic support to both Palestine and Lebanon to enable them to overcome the consequences of the war.

We reaffirm our unwavering support to the struggle of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination, and the implementation of all UN resolutions related to the Palestinian cause, and stress the necessity to address the root causes of instability in the Middle East through meeting all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and establishing an independent, sovereign, and contiguous Palestinian State along the lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. And we call in this regard for the recognition of the State of Palestine by all states that have not yet done so and fully support its full membership in the United Nations.

We also stress the importance of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Lebanon and underscore the need to support its institutions, to fully implement the UNSC resolution 1701 (2006) and to enable the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the south of the Litani River, extending its control over the entire country.

We express our appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for holding a dedicated session on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon and look forward to following-up on the outcomes of our deliberations.