

## Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers

### Report Of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers 18 December 2024, Cairo

The 21st Council of Ministers was held on 18th December in New Administrative Capital Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. Ministers/Representatives from D-8 Member States participated in the meeting. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

#### Agenda Item 1: Opening

- a) Opening Statement by H.E. Ambassador M. Riaz Hamidullah, Secretary (Regional and Multilateral), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of **Bangladesh**, as the immediate past Chair-in-Office of the D-8 Council and hand-over of Chairmanship of the D-8 Council of Ministers from the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

H.E. Ambassador M. Riaz Hamidullah, Secretary (Regional and Multilateral), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh, delivered his opening statement as the outgoing Chair, and handed over the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers to H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- b) Welcome Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chairman-in-office of the D-8 Council.

H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates, of the Arab Republic of Egypt welcomed the delegates and expressed his appreciation to Bangladesh for its dedication and commitment during its tenure as Chair from 2021 to 2024. His statement is attached as **Annex-II**.

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

The Council considered and adopted the agenda as attached as **Annex-III**.

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

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of D-8, presented progress reports on the Organization's activities since the 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2022.

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

## **Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers**

### **Agenda Item 4: Statements by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation**

Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation from each Member State delivered their remarks, extending their congratulations and appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for assuming the Chairmanship of the D-8 Organization and for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Summit and its preceding meetings in Cairo. The speakers also expressed their utmost gratitude and congratulated 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-V**.

### **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.

The council considered and approved the two drafts documents (as finalized by the Commission) on procedure of granting membership as well as observer status in to the Organization. The two documents are attached as **Annex VI**.

The Council approved Azerbaijan's admission as a full member with consensus as recommended to the 11th Summit for its endorsement.

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

The Council considered and approved the nomination of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, as the next Secretary General of the Organization. The Council recommended the nomination to the 11th Summit for its endorsement.

### **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 Communique on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon

The Council endorsed the agenda of the 11<sup>th</sup> Summit, as recommended by the Commission. The agenda is attached as **Annex VII**.

The Council considered and endorsed the Cairo Declaration 2024 for adoption at the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit.

### **Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers**

The Council also considered and endorsed the Joint Communiqué on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon for adoption at the Special Session of the D-8 Summit on the Situation of Palestine and Lebanon.

The Declaration and Joint Communiqué are attached as **Annex VIII**.

### **Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Approval of the Reports of the 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, and Special Sessions of the D-8 Commission.**

The Council considered and approved the Reports of the 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 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

The Council considered and approved the Secretariat Budget for 2023, 2024 and 2025, as adopted by the Commissions.

The council also authorized the utilization of General Reserved Fund as proposed by the 48<sup>th</sup> Commission.

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

The Council approved the Audit Report of the D-8 Secretariat for 2021-2022.

### **Agenda Item 11: Date and venue of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

Egypt informed that date and venue of the next Council of Ministers meeting will be announced at a later stage upon close consultation among all D-8 Member States.

### **Agenda Item 12: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

The Council Considered and adopted the report.

### **Closing of the Meeting**

Ambassador, Isiaka AbudulQadir Imam, the Secretary General of D-8 appreciated and commend the Arab Republic of Egypt for Excellent arrangements and outstanding hospitality for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers in the New Administrative Capital, Cairo, Egypt.

The H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates, of the Arab Republic of Egypt expressed his appreciation to all the respected Ministers/Heads of delegation for their active and constructive participation and closed the meeting.

The Council is closed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**List of Participants**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Session of Ministerial Council**  
**D-8 Organization.**

**Peoples Republic of Bangladesh:**

- H.E. Ambassador M. Riaz Hamidullah, Additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Director General (International Organizations wings), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.
- Ms. Nisa Chakma, Senior Assistant Secretary (International Organizations Wing), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh.

**Arab Republic of Egypt:**

- H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates.
- Ambassador/ Ragui El-Etrebi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs.
- Minister Plenipotentiary/ Hazem Zaki, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Economic Organizations and the General Coordinator of the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit.
- Counsellor/ Ahmed Magdy, Office of Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs.
- Counsellor/ Amira El-Ghandour, Office of Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs.
- Second Secretary/ Nahla El-Rafei, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates.
- Second Secretary/ Ahmed Shash, Office of Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs.

- Attache/ Ahmed Saber, Office of Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs.

### **Republic of Indonesia:**

- H.E. Arif Havas Oegroseno, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Tri Tharyat, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation
- H.E. Abdul Kadir Jailani, Director General for Asian, Pacific and African Affairs
- Mrs. Penny Dewi Herasati, Director for Socio-Cultural Affairs and the International Organization for Developing Countries
- Mr. Arief Rachmat Hidayat, Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

- H.E. Seyed Abbas Araghachi, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- H.E. Rasool Mohajer, Deputy minister of foreign affairs Islamic Republic of Iran
- Seyed Jalalaldin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General of the office of multilateral and international economic cooperation ministry of foreign affairs Islamic Republic of Iran
- Mehdi shushtari, Assistant minister and Director general of west Asia and North Africa ministry of foreign affairs Islamic Republic of Iran

### **Malaysia:**

- H.E. Zambry Abd Kadir, Minister of Higher Education.
- Ambassador Dato' Mohd Tarid Sufian, Ambassador of Malaysia to Egypt
- Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali, Malaysia Commissioner for D-8
- Ms. Noor Aida Mohd Adham, Assistant Secretary, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia

### **Federal Republic of Nigeria:**

- H.E. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Ambassador, Dunoma Ahmed Umar (D-8 Commissioner), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Amb. Zayyad Abdussalam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Amb. Adeyemi Adebayo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Amb Bukar Abdussalam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Adesoyo Samatu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Islamic Republic of Pakistan:**

- H.E. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.
- Mr. Ahmed Amjad Ali, Additional Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Dr. Asima Rabbani, Director General (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Shah Nazar, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Musawwir Abbas, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Republic of Türkiye:**

H.E. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Türkiye along with his team members.**

### **D-8 Secretariat:**

- H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Imam, **Secretary General** of D-8.
- Mr. Ahmar Ismail – Director-I.
- Mr. Punjul Nugraha – Director -II.
- Mr. Muhammad Bilal Khan – Executive Assistant-I.
- Ms. Zahrah Setareh – Executive Assistant-II.
- Mr. Ismail Bello – Executive Assistant-III.
- Mr. Ilham Uludag – Media and Protocol Assistant.

**Statement**

**Dr. Badr Abdelatty**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs,**

**Emigration and Expatriates**

**the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

**18 December 2024**

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Excellencies, dear brothers, the D8 Ministers;

Ladies and gentlemen;

At the outset, I wish to warmly welcome Your Excellencies to Egypt, and to the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers as we prepare together for the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Riaz Hamidullah, the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for his country's relentless efforts to strengthen the work of our organization and foster the spirit of cooperation among us during the Presidency of Bangladesh of the D-8.

I also wish to extend my appreciation to our Commissioners for their tireless efforts in preparation for our meeting today and the D-8 Summit tomorrow, and to H.E. Isiaka Imam, the Secretary General of D-8 and his able team, for the support they have given us to ensure the success of our meetings.

Excellencies,

We meet today amid multiple and interlinked challenges and crises that have disproportionately affected our developing countries. These crises include geopolitical conflicts and tensions, a series of unprecedented and overlapping economic challenges, high levels of debt distress, increasing inflation rates, rising inequality, the adverse impacts of climate change and above all the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.



The inhumane Israeli war of aggression against Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories is without a doubt one of the greatest tragedies of our time, resulting in a grave humanitarian crisis of catastrophic magnitude with over 40 thousand Palestinians losing their lives, of whom two thirds are women and children, more than 1.9 million people forcibly displaced, 60 % of homes destroyed and a complete collapse of the infrastructure.

The Israeli aggression did not stop at Palestine. The same oppressor has continued its relentless violation of international law and the basic principles of humanity to attack Lebanon, Syria and other countries in the region. The economic losses and physical damage resulting from the Israeli aggression in Lebanon are estimated at 8.5 billion US dollars, with almost 100,000 housing units partially or fully damaged. It is for this reason that we took the initiative to hold a special session on Palestine and Lebanon during the work of our Summit tomorrow.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Against this backdrop, and in light of these challenges and crises, we must further enhance and strengthen our cooperation in all sectors. In conjunction, we have to exert all efforts to discover new areas and avenues of collaboration, with a view to realize the aspirations of our people, achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty, while also preparing for other emerging challenges. It is in this context that I wish to highlight the following:

**First:** We have envisioned that the D-8 summit shall take place under the theme: “Investing in Youth and Strengthening SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow’s Economy”. We firmly believe that investing in our youth is a direct investment in our future. We need to equip youth with the necessary tools, build their capacities and knowledge, as well as support and nurture youth entrepreneurship. In this regard, we should work together to ensure that our youth can embrace new tools and trends, especially emerging technologies and innovation, such as artificial intelligence.

**Second:** Egypt is committed to further deepen our cooperation in all fields. We look forward to hosting the first D-8 Ministerial Meeting on health, to discover new avenues of cooperation and explore the various technological advancements in this critical sector. In the same vein, we will also host the fourth D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, as well as the D-8 Ministerial meeting on Trade. I take this opportunity to share that Egypt will ratify the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement in the upcoming weeks, as we firmly believe in the utmost necessity of promoting trade and developing a clear roadmap to encourage investments among our countries, taking into consideration the plentiful comparative advantages that we have as a group.

**Third**: Strengthening our academic and training cooperation is needed now more than ever. We propose establishing a “Network for Institutes of Diplomatic Studies” among the D8 Member States to foster cooperation and exchange expertise, while educating our next generation of Diplomats about new trends and tools. Similarly, Egypt will launch the “Network for Economic Think Tanks” to serve as a platform for sharing expertise, best practices and prepare joint studies to assist us in achieving our common economic and developmental efforts.

**Fourth**: As we meet today, the financing gap to achieve the sustainable development goals stands at 4 trillion dollars annually, while the needs of developing countries to implement their nationally determined contributions are in the range of 5.8 trillion dollars up to 2030. We need to expedite our efforts together, as members of D-8, at different multilateral fora and meetings, to ensure that the necessary means of implementation, including concessional finance, is provided to our countries.

**Fifth:** While we are working relentlessly to achieve national development plans, we should ensure that the private sector is part and parcel of these endeavors. Our ultimate objective should be to create an enabling environment for the private sector to further contribute to implementing our shared vision. In this regard, D-8 members may consider establishing a “Private Sector Forum”. This forum should be a platform for private sector entities in our countries to interact and collaborate, in order to achieve our common aspirations.

Excellencies,

I am confident that our deliberations today, and our Leaders’ deliberations tomorrow, will lead to concrete steps to deepen and strengthen our cooperation at all levels and in all sectors, while we aim together to achieve the development of our countries and realize the legitimate aspirations of our people. I wish you all fruitful and successful discussions that pave the way for a brighter future together.

I Thank you.

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**Agenda of the  
21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

**Agenda Item 12: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**STATEMENT BY H.E., AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR  
IMAM, THE D-8 SECRETARY GENERAL, AT THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, CAIRO, 18  
DECEMBER 2024**

**Your Excellency Dr. Badr Abdelatty, the Honorable Minister  
of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the  
Honorable Chair of the D-8 Council,**

**Your Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the D8  
Member States,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As-Salam Alaikum and Good Afternoon.

I am honored to address this 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers, to present the status of our organization to the esteemed Ministers.

Let me begin by congratulating the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the excellent preparation and organization of this Session, as well as the just-concluded 48<sup>th</sup> D-8 Commission and the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Summit. My utmost gratitude also goes to Egypt for the warm welcome and hospitality, accorded me and my delegation.

**Thank you, Your Excellency, Minister Abdelatty.**

Before continuing, allow me to congratulate Bangladesh on her exceptional Chairmanship of the D-8, over the past three years. Remarkable achievements were recorded, during their tenure, laying the foundation, for our organization's growth. I extend our best wishes to Egypt, as the D-8 Organization's sitting chairman-in-office.



We are confident Egypt's stewardship will open new frontiers, for enhanced cooperation in the D-8 development agenda.

I would also like to thank all Member States, for their unwavering support, which has enabled me to fulfill my duties as Secretary-General.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates.**

Since this Council's previous session in 2022, our organization has been advancing, our shared cooperation agenda. Among the highlights, since the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of Council, was the **Extraordinary Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers**, in Istanbul last June. That meeting, generously hosted by Türkiye, deliberated on the Situation in Gaza. This has demonstrated our steadfast support towards, Palestine.

As we gather today, our solidarity for the Palestinians continue to resonate, evidently with the convening of a special D-8 summit session on Palestine and Lebanon, scheduled for tomorrow. Later today, Council will deliberate on the draft Joint Communique on Palestine and Lebanon, which our Leaders, will issue tomorrow.

***Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,***

Allow me to highlight some of our organization's major achievements, since the last Session of Council.

## **[Trade]**

Trade remains central to our organization. Over the past two years, the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC) has convened twice: once, for its third ordinary session in Dhaka, in March 2024 and, three months later, for an informal meeting in Istanbul. Those meetings were crucial platforms, for renewed commitment from the member states,

to effectively implement the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA).

For instance, Indonesia and Türkiye have commenced trading, under the provisions of the D8 PTA, while other member states are making arrangements, to implement this crucial trade instrument, to enable us meet our objective of reaching 500 billion US Dollars intra-D-8 trade value by 2030.

This year, we adopted the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM), an integral part of the PTA. Four Contracting Members have signed the DSM Protocol, while the remaining four are expected to sign it, during the 4<sup>th</sup> TMC Meeting, which Egypt will host in 2025.

## **[Agriculture]**

Our agriculture and food security cooperation has witnessed significant progress, with the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, hosted by Bangladesh, virtually, in January 2022. The Ministers addressed the issue of Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Furthermore, a series of webinars on modern technique of agricultural practices, were also hosted by Türkiye and Bangladesh. Nigeria is set to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security, in 2025.

We also saw the inauguration of the D-8 Research Center on Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS) in Faisalabad, Pakistan, in March 2023. The Centre, is fully operational and has engaged with

the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), through a Joint Action Plan, for 2024 - 2026.

### **[Tourism]**

In the area of tourism, Pakistan, successfully hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> D-8 Ministers of Tourism Meeting in Bhurban Muree, Pakistan. That meeting produced the "Islamabad Declaration on Tourism." As a follow up, we have established the "D8 Tourism City of the Year Award." The City of Antalya, in Türkiye, is the maiden recipient of this award, for 2025. We congratulate Türkiye, on this historic achievement, as we eagerly anticipate Egypt to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Tourism Ministerial Meeting, in Aswan, next year.

### **[Transportation]**

We are also working to advance our civil aviation cooperation. Let us thank Indonesia and Türkiye, for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sessions

of the Directors-General and Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation in Bali and Antalya, respectively. Allow me, Mr. Chair to propose that we also embark on maritime connectivity and explore the Blue Economy Agenda, under the transportation cooperation agenda.

**Honorable Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,  
[SME and Youth Development]**

We are prioritizing SME and Youth development in our cooperation agenda, as this crucial to the growth of our organization. This aligns perfectly with the theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> Summit, **“Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow’s Economy,”**.

SMEs serve as the primary driver of economic growth, in our member states, while **210 million or 20%** of our 1.1 billion population, are made up of youth.

Nigeria successfully hosted the First D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Market in October 2022, to advance the role of SMEs in our economic development. Building on this Forum's success, Nigeria has proposed to establish and host D-8 Center for Small and Medium Enterprises in Abuja, for the benefit of all member states.

On youth development, we hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, last May, laying the groundwork for a D-8 Youth Council, which Bangladesh will host. Nigeria has committed to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Youth, in 2025.

**Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

**[Private Sector and External Relations]**

Our collaboration with the private sector is expanding, rapidly. For instance, we are collaborating with, Al-Hidayah Group of Malaysia, to

establish the D-8 Creative Economic and Financial Centre, to drive digital economy, sustainable investment and halal economy.

In Türkiye, we are partnering with Arvasya Holding, to explore D8 New Generation Barter Trading, to enhance our intra-trade through counter-trade. In Nigeria, we are discussing the promotion of halal industries, with the Dar Halal Group, while talks are on-going with Invest Nigeria, a private investment management company, to promote intra-D-8 cross-border investments. In Iran, we initiated collaboration with FANAP, an Iranian ICT company, to grow the digital economy, through the First D-8 Digital Economy Forum, planned for 2025, in Iran.

In the area of External Relations, I am proud to report that the D-8 is now relatively well-known, globally. Thanks to active and sustained collaboration with our external partners, particularly the UN and its



Specialized Agencies as well as the OIC and its organs and other international organizations as well as the media. Today, D8 agenda is well advanced, while its visibility has also improved, significantly, as our organization continue to receive invitations, to high-level regional and international events.

### **[Affiliated Bodies]**

#### **Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants**

The D-8 affiliate bodies also recorded, significant progress. The D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network, based in Iran, collaborated with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, to organize the 6<sup>th</sup> D8 Technology Investment Meeting in Malaysia, in August, 2024.

The D-8 Network and Pioneer for Research and Innovation (NPRI), hosted by Pakistan, convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the NPRI, last

month, hosted by the University of in Ilorin, in Nigeria. The NPRI is the D-8 R&D branch, which can be used to support our development agenda. The NPRI welcomed two new members, the University of Ilorin in Nigeria and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

The D-8 International University, hosted by Iran, also expanded its scope, by offering graduate and post-graduate programs. I call on member states to accredit the programs of the D-8 University, accordingly.

The D-8 Health and Social Protection Program, hosted by Nigeria, successfully conducted a study on therapeutic medicines in the D-8 Member States, with funding from the Islamic Development Bank in 2023. The D-8 HSP is an ideal bastion, for our medical research and development.

The D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), held its fourth General Assembly, yesterday, here in Cairo. Last October, one of its members, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, organized the D-8 Business Forum, in Jakarta.

**Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With progress come challenges, and I can identify, three of them.

**First**, the Secretariat has a manpower shortage. If it is equipped with adequate manpower, the Secretariat can do much more, in achieving the D-8 objectives.

**Second**, our organization does not have a development budget.

Therefore, I propose the establishment of a **D-8 Development Fund**, to address this challenge. I humbly call on this noble Council to support this novel initiative, which, if materialized, will be a game changer, for the D8 organization.

**Third**, frequent unmet quorum. The success of our endeavors, hinges on the active participation of the esteemed Member States. Regrettably, we have experienced situation, where several of our meetings and activities, have to be postponed, due to lack of quorum. For this purpose, I would like to appeal to our esteemed member states, for increased participation, in our activities and programs.

In conclusion, **Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**, our beloved organization is an ideal platform for robust collaboration. Therefore, as we move forward, under Egypt's chairmanship, let us reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the D-8.

Our shared resolve, will make the D-8 a global economic powerhouse and an influential actor in the Global South, championing the ideals of south-south cooperation. My team and I, at the Secretariat, remain fully committed, to facilitating these improvements, working closely with the support and guidance of the member states and the esteemed Council.

This 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council, under Egypt's effective Chairmanship, and with Your Excellencies' active contribution, will serve as another milestone, in our shared journey of progress and solidarity.

I thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH**  
**21<sup>st</sup> COUNCIL of MINISTERS**

**Inaugural Remarks**

**by**

**H E Ambassador M. Riaz Hamidullah**  
**Secretary (Regional & Multilateral Affairs)**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh**

*Cairo, 18 December 2024*

**Hon'ble Ministers, and Heads of Delegation of D-8 Member States,  
Incoming D8 Council Chair, Excellency Foreign Minister of Egypt,  
Secretary General of D-8  
Distinguished Delegates**

*Assalamu Alaikum.*

On behalf of the Hon'ble Foreign Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, I would like to convey to you all the warm greetings from the people of Bangladesh.

Our sincere felicitations to the brotherly people of Egypt. And, warm appreciation for making meticulous arrangements in hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers.

We have seen up close how the Secretary-General and his team endeavours in advancing the Organization's collective interests and objectives. Our applause to them.

During our three years' Chairmanship, Bangladesh endeavored to advance D-8 cooperation under challenging circumstances. Without recounting the meetings held, I would particularly highlight finalization of the Protocol to the D-8 PTA on Dispute Settlement Mechanism. This was a milestone for it can pave ways for trade liberalization. We have also been at work on establishment of the D-8 Youth Council.

As the leader of Bangladesh delegation, it is therefore my great privilege to formally hand over the D-8 Council Chairmanship to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Having known His Excellency, Foreign Minister Badr Abdellaty, Bangladesh is indeed confident of his leadership and Egypt's commitment towards furtherance of our collective aspirations. Please be assured, Excellency, of Bangladesh's steadfast support to Egypt in steering the Organization towards greater accomplishments.

I thank you.

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General Statement – Bangladesh

*Our Chairman, Your Excellency Bady Abellaty*

*Secretary General*

*Excellencies,*

From conflicts to climate change, today multi-farous global and regional challenges grip the D8 countries. Deadly conflicts afflict this very region, even.

All the crises underline the need for us to act far more resolutely and ingeniously, collectively.

The external challenges – as they exist and evolve – should ask us to re-discover ‘collaboration’ afresh.

The theme of the Summit echoes aptly with our collective aspirations.

As we finalise the Summit’s outcome and the Cairo Declaration, Bangladesh would like to flag a few elements for the Council’s reflection:

- To date, D-8 remains essentially inter-governmental. Only exception is the D-8 Chamber of Commerce. Yet, the ways most of countries engage in other regional frameworks, we do see the vitality and benefits of engaging range of stakeholders beyond the Government. Every sectoral meeting we hold or initiative we take, those need to be driven by ‘impacts’ and ‘result orientation’. Many back home suggest for vigorously unpacking collaboration potential through academia and research collaboration under D-8 frameworks, in sectors like trade, agriculture, energy. Given this Summit’s focus on youth, we need to consider how do we bring entrepreneurship talents and energy of our youth through so many digital tools and applications.
- With over 550 million youth across D-8 member states, let us re-think how effectively we let our youth innovate, incubate and advance adaptive applications of technology. This applies eminently to scores of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across our countries who need financing and hand-holding. Many SMEs in our countries can offer solution to some of the endemic societal challenges or climatic distress. It is time that we think of ways to effectively engage them, to unleash their transformative potential.



- D-8 has existed for long 27 years. It is time that we consider widening mobility amongst our countries, based on certain agreed criterion. We stand to benefit by liberating movement of the entrepreneurs, investors as also academics, experts, Press and Media of established credential or standing. Several peer regional organisations had incrementally gained out of people's mobility, even by introducing annual Travel Card, for instance. This surely can create greater interest and ownership among diverse stakeholders, across society and economy.
- It has been eighteen long years that we have been working on operationalizing D-8 PTA. Egypt's ratification of the PTA is a welcome step. Our private sector however question if it is fitting to reach this level when national, regional and global economic dynamics change far faster. Compared to a decade back even, manufacturing and service sectors in our countries have changed significantly. Most of our countries are aggressively involved on comprehensive bilateral economic partnerships, if not FTAs. It is therefore time that we think beyond a limited PTA – towards a comprehensive economic partnership – which can truly attract the entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, particularly the youth, in D-8 as a truly dynamic, competitive and impactful economic bloc. That may merit hearing directly from the Chambers and select Industry Associations in the D-8 countries, even ahead of or, on the sidelines of relevant sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
- We welcome Azerbaijan in our midst, as the ninth D-8 member state. Now that D-8 Secretariat has been at work for well over a decade, the Organisation can engage with credible, relevant and interested Regional Development Banks or similar institutions. IsDB, ADB, AfDB, for instance, can bring in wealth of expertise to complement some of our sectoral works.

I thank you, for your kind attention.

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**STATEMENT BY EGYPT – Waiting to be received from Egypt**

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## **STATEMENT BY INDONESIA**

### **General Statement**

**Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia**

**at the 21st Session of D-8 Council of Ministers**

**His Excellency Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt,**

**His Excellency Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of D-8**

**Honourable Ministers,**

1. We are meeting amidst continued global uncertainties,
  
2. Conflicts and geopolitical tensions have increased commodities prices, and impacted supply chain.
  - resulting in steep inflation.
  
3. Now we are facing an even further disruption, due to more stringent protectionism.
  
4. Left unaddressed, then our efforts to reduce poverty and progress sustainably will be severely complicated.
  - Not to mention the growing inequality in global trade.
  
5. It is in this context that our collaboration as developing and emerging economies is critical.
  
6. It is well understood that the value of intra-trade among D-8 member countries remains relatively low, stood at USD 145 billion in 2023, or only 7% of our total trade value.

Thus, the full implementation of D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement is very potential to achieve the Decennial Roadmap target of 10% of our total trade value by 2030.

7. We also note that the custom procedures for intra-D8 trade need to be streamlined and simplified to further open market access for the implementation of the PTA.

For that reason, we may consider a meeting of the Finance Ministers of D8 Member States in the future to address and resolve this matter.

8. Expanding its scope of our cooperation, including on halal products, will boost our trade integration.

9. Further, we must deepen and widen our collaboration, to help put us in a more solid footing against the global challenges.

expedite the creation of comprehensive economic partnership agreement in the future;

implement D-8 Decennial Roadmap, which has been very comprehensive in its scoping.

10. This year's D-8 theme of empowering SMEs and youth aligns closely with our future, and the current priorities of my President in Asta Cita vision.

11. SMEs are indeed the backbone of economy.

70% of jobs in 2030 would be created by SMEs.

12. Indonesia encourages convening D-8 SMEs forum to learn from each other on financing or digital and green transition.

13. On a different note, youth are the architects of future.

- through scholarships, exchanges, and innovation hubs,

- we must empower them to thrive in an increasingly competitive global landscape

14. We applaud the establishment of D-8 Youth Council, and look forward to participate in its future activities.

15. Looking ahead, science, technology, and innovation (STI) are the currency for success.

16. We must unleash our collective capacity... through partnership and concrete programs.

17. Our network of research, academic and innovation centers must be geared up for concrete and targeted collaboration.

18. On this note, we encourage discussion on how to promote collaboration on blue economy. As a matter of fact, all of us, member states of D-8 have oceanic access, from the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean to Pacific Ocean with critical check points such as Suez Canal on Strait of Malacca.

- the untapped potentials are tremendous, for sustainability and progress.

Excellencies,

19. D-8 is part of the Global South.

20. Together, we must be a positive force for peace, equity, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

21. We must be persistent in championing the rights of developing countries,

- to strengthen downstream industries,
- a more equal access to finance,
- and fairer and more inclusive international architecture.

22. And while I talk about peace, Indonesia reaffirms its unwavering support for Palestine and Lebanon.

23. The unrelenting tragedies unfolding in Gaza and Lebanon demand decisive action;

- D-8 must go beyond condemnation.

24. The D-8 Extraordinary Council on Gaza held last June was a testament to our shared humanity.

25. Now, we must transform solidarity into meaningful outcomes during tomorrow's Summit.

26. This is our moment to act—with courage, unity, and purpose.

27. I thank you.



**STATEMENT BY IRAN**

**21st Session of the  
Council of Ministers of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation**

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**18 December 2024- Cairo, Egypt**

**Page 2 of 4**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Chairman, Dear Brother Minister Badr Abdelatty

Let me begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to you and to the Arab Republic of Egypt for assuming the Chairmanship of the D8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in 2024 and 2025.

We are grateful to the great people and the Government of Egypt for warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. This is always a pleasure for me to visit the historic and beautiful city of Cairo.

I would also like to thank the People Republic of Bangladesh for the able chairmanship of the D8 in the last 3 years.

Honourable fellow Ministers,

Distinguished D8 Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Imam,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather here to prepare for Insha'Allah a successful D-8 Summit at the time when the Muslim world is still suffering from unprecedented cruelty of the Zionist regime in the last 15 months in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria. The D8 was among the first groups of countries who condemned, in October 2023, Israel's attack to Gaza. It was followed by an extraordinary meeting of D8 Council of Ministers on Gaza in June 2024 in Istanbul. The D8 Special Summit on Situation in Palestine and the Lebanon here tomorrow

Page 3 of 4

will be the latest testament to our brotherly countries' continued joint commitment to fraternity, peace, dialogue, justice and rule of law across the region and the world, as envisaged in the D8 Charter.

The international community has embarrassingly failed to stop acts of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide by the Zionist regime. This is largely attributed to the political, military, intelligence and financial support by the US administration to Israel. The Special D8 Summit tomorrow will hopefully send a strong message to the world that the Israeli aggressions and violations in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria shall be ended immediately; the Zionist regime and its allies shall be held accountable for their acts; a permanent ceasefire shall be established in Gaza to allow unhindered access of People of Gaza to humanitarian assistance; the Palestine Cause and the right of Palestinians to self-determination shall be realized; any attempt for land annexation by Israel shall be prevented; the Israeli forces shall immediately withdraw from occupied territories in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria; and last but not the least, that D8 countries are prepared to support Palestine and Lebanon to address economic and related challenges and problems resulted from the current situation.

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is not a regular Council session today, I will not touch in details issues of cooperation within D8 in my statement. The draft Cairo Declaration, as finalized by the D8 Commission on 16 December, presents a

Page 4 of 4

promising landscape for enhanced cooperation among our countries within the existing D8 frameworks for cooperation in areas of common interest. We believe that D8 shall focus more on the ways and means to make our economies and our peoples more resilient against the possible shocks in the future. The new and emerging technologies present unprecedented opportunities as well as challenges and risks in this regard.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate all efforts by your able team, the D8 Secretary General and his professional team, as well as D8 Commissioners for their excellent work done so far. I wish a very successful meeting today and a promising Summit tomorrow.

I thank you for your attention.

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## **STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

*As presented by Minister of Higher Education during 21<sup>st</sup> COM, 18 Dec 2024*



**H.E. DATO' SERI DIRAJA DR. ZAMBRY ABDUL KADIR**

**MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF MALAYSIA**

**AT THE 21<sup>st</sup> D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**CAIRO, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

**18 DECEMBER 2024**

**AGENDA 4: STATEMENT BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION**



**His Excellency Badr Abdelatty (Ba-der Ab-dul La-tee)**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Arab Republic of Egypt

**His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam (Ee-si-a-ka Ab-dul Ka-dir Ee-mam)**

Secretary General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished D-8 Commissioners,

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

### Introduction

1. Allow me to extend my appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the excellent hospitality and arrangements extended to me and my delegation. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my profound congratulations to the government of Egypt on assuming the chairmanship for 2024-2025 term. In the same breath, I wish to express my appreciation to Bangladesh for its leadership and dedication during the previous term.

2. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam (Isi-a-ka Ab-dul Ka-dir Ee-mam), for his leadership in steering the Organisation for 2022-2025.

### New Secretary General

3. To His Excellency Mr. Sohail Mahmood of Pakistan, allow me to extend our best wishes for your upcoming appointment as the new D-8 Secretary General.

### D-8 Expansion

4. Malaysia is equally pleased to welcome the Republic of Azerbaijan as the latest Member of the D-8 Organisation. We believe the inclusion of the Republic of Azerbaijan in D-8 will enrich our economic and trade cooperation.

Excellencies,

### Cairo Declaration

5. Malaysia supports the outcome document of the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, ‘Cairo Declaration’, with the theme “Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow’s Economy”.

6. This Declaration stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to empowering our youth as future leaders and catalyst for sustainable economic growth. Our youth are the architects of today with their creativity, energy and boundless potential. They hold the keys to solving our most pressing challenges. But to unlock their potentials, we must provide future-proof education system, providing skills, STEM field, digital literacy, creative industries and entrepreneurial skills.

7. In line with the theme of this Summit, higher education institutions play a pivotal role in providing opportunities and empowering our youth. In this regard, the Ministry of Higher Education warmly invite all D-8 Member States to participate in our Malaysia's Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT).

8. This academy serves as academic platform for senior and mid management in fostering leadership development capacity building and the enhancement of managerial skills among young academics, student leaders, professionals and entrepreneur.

9. Let us set the right policy of higher education that aims to create bridges of knowledge and opportunity. Thus, we can together create youth innovative programmes. We can also develop D-8 focused scholarship and research grant that incentivise collaboration among our nations and we can also establish joint research initiatives that pool resources, expertise and data.

#### Joint Communiqué on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon

10. Malaysia commends the Government of Egypt for convening the Special Session on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon, and supports the adoption of the Joint Communiqué which underscores the importance and urgency of addressing these critical issues.

11. We are indeed deeply troubled by the unimaginable suffering unfolding in Gaza. The situation is a stain on our collective conscience. We witness the entire process of dehumanisation of the entire people in Palestine.

12. The precarious situation in Palestine, Lebanon and now in Syria must be handled expeditiously as the arrival of winter will further aggravate the dire

situation of the war-stricken people.

### D-8 Secretariat Budget

13. Malaysia commends the D-8 Secretariat for successfully managing the Organisation within the approved budget for 2023 and 2024, despite having to face economic challenges due to the rising cost of operations.

14. We acknowledge the request for a budget increase in 2026 and urge the D-8 Commission to discuss financial requirements of the Secretariat. Additionally, Malaysia believes it is essential that the D-8 Commission discussion also address the need to revise the scale of assessment for Member States' contributions. After nearly 20 years, this revision is necessary to ensure that Member States contribute fairly and equitably.

15. As the D-8 Secretariat cannot just rely on the current administrative budget, efforts should be made to seek collaboration with international organisations and overseas development agencies to establish a development budget for activities that would benefit the Organisation.

Excellencies,

16. I look forward to a fruitful discussion with you all.

Thank you.

Prepared by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

17 December 2024

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**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA**  
**DRAFT STATEMENT PREPARED**

**FOR**

**AMB.YUSUF MAITAMA TUGGAR, *OON***

**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**FOR THE**

**21<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER,  
2024 CAIRO, EGYPT**

**Your Excellency, Badr Abdelatty,**

**Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt,**

**Your Excellency, Touhid Hossain,**

**Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,**

**Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs;**

**Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam,**

**Secretary-General of the D-8;**

**Distinguished Delegates;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government and people of Nigeria, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to my brother and dear friend Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the D-8 Council of Ministers. I am confident that under your able leadership, the D-8 will continue to adhere to its principles and objectives. I also

wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the outgoing Chairman of this Council, for his qualitative leadership while managing the affairs of the council.

2. Let me commend the enormous contributions of Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8, and his wonderful team, for deploying their expertise in managing the day-to-day activities of the D-8 Secretariat and working tirelessly to coordinate the workings of the organs of the Organization. Nigeria acknowledges your efforts and the milestones we have reached in the D-8, with you as Secretary General of the Organization.

3. Mr. Chairman, this year's theme, *"Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy,"* is very much more than a slogan. There is a wealth of evidence to show that SMEs are the lifeline for improving household income and moving people out of poverty. And SMEs are, typically, women and youth led, which helps to promote inclusivity and reduce inequality. This is not an abstract exercise. We are looking to draft a blue print to empower and enable people to change their own lives - and in the process, promote peace and prosperity.



4. SMEs are critical in reshaping our social fabric towards more inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth. They act as a catalyst for knowledge transfer and innovation. Small and nimble, they are faster than other institutions in adopting and adapting to new technologies, including AI.

5. This is especially true in Nigeria and other parts of our region, where established values and sense of community are a natural fit with the scale, innovation and identity that SMEs represent. We see this in everything from tech start-ups to the garment sector. Our job in government is to leave it to those best able to do so to create the spark, while we focus on delivering a level playing field. We see the impact of initiatives like the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System in simplifying access to finance. These are the ideas on which we need to build. Startups begin their lives as SMEs, and **Moniepoint** just became Nigeria's 6<sup>th</sup> Unicorn about a fortnight ago. **Moove** is a mobility startup owned by two young Nigerians that helps other young Nigerians to acquire commercial vehicles. Uber just invested in them. There are also SME-Start-Ups in Agri-tech and Health-tech, creating jobs for young Nigerians and women. Not just jobs, but high-quality jobs with higher incomes. Herein lies our comparative advantage.

5. The D-8 is working to build a fairer and more sustainable international system. In support of these ideals, Nigeria reiterates its commitment to host the D-8 SME Centre. Plans by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) are nearing completion for the Centre's launch in early 2025.

6. We are all committed to the D-8's objectives. They are a vital part of efforts to make a more stable and prosperous community. But if we are to deliver, we must ensure sustained funding to provide adequate financial resources for the effective operation of this esteemed multilateral platform. To this end, Nigeria wishes to commend the Secretariat for the proposed D8 Development Fund and call on all Member States to support the initiatives.

**Your Excellencies,**

7. We must redouble our efforts to end Israel's aggression in Gaza by advocating for immediate, permanent and unconditional cease fire, as well as the ending of the blockade of Gaza to allow unhindered supply of the much-needed humanitarian assistance to the displaced Palestinian people. We must firmly commit to using every available opportunity towards achieving this objective and the entrenchment of a permanent resolution to the Middle East crisis through the establishment of an

independent Palestinian State. This remains the best and only path towards a sustainable peace in the region.

8. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Nigeria's readiness to deepen cooperation among the D-8 Member States through increased trade and investment, as well as the promotion of people-to-people contact for growth and the socio-economic well-being of our citizens.

**Thank you all!**

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#### **STATEMENT BY PAKISTAN**

**H.E. Badr Abdelatty, Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt,  
Honourable Foreign Ministers of D-8 Member States,**

**Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D-8,**

**Esteemed delegates, Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,**

**Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very good afternoon.**

1. It is a privilege to join you here in Cairo, a city with such rich history, alongside colleagues and friends from D-8 member states.
2. I would like to thank Egypt for the warm hospitality and for hosting this important meeting. The excellent arrangements and dedication of our Egyptian hosts have created the perfect setting for us to discuss ways to enhance economic

cooperation. We welcome Egypt as the new Chair of the D-8 and look forward to working together to promote growth and prosperity. I am confident this session will strengthen our partnerships and lead to meaningful progress for our collective prosperity.

3. I also want to express our gratitude to Bangladesh for their leadership as Chair over the past three years. Their efforts to encourage collaboration and growth among member states have been highly valuable.

### **Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**

4. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to engage with you during the Extraordinary Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting on Gaza. Sadly, the situation in Gaza has worsened, with devastating loss of life and injuries to innocent civilians. The continued escalation of violence, including in Lebanon and Syria, is deeply concerning. Pakistan calls for an immediate and unconditional end to the hostilities. The D-8 Council of Minister provides an important forum to discuss ways to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

### **Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**

5. Pakistan is committed to increasing economic collaboration and boosting trade within the D-8. I am happy to note here that our cabinet has approved the protocol on dispute resolution mechanism (DSM) of D-8 PTA. The cabinet has also approved its operationalization. We hope to ratify it very soon.

### **Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**

6. Agriculture and food security are critical priorities for Pakistan and the D-8. In March 2023, we inaugurated the D-8 Research Center on Agriculture and Food Security in Pakistan. We hope this center will serve as a hub for innovative research that benefits all member states.

7. Tourism is another area with immense potential. In August 2023, Pakistan hosted the 3rd Meeting in Islamabad, which resulted in the Islamabad Declaration on Tourism. This outlines clear commitments to implementing the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism.

### **Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**

8. For the D-8 to grow and thrive, it is vital to welcome new members. Pakistan supports Azerbaijan's application for membership and hope that after the

Commission's approval the CFM will also endorse it. We also hope that the criteria for the membership will be approved by the member states to welcome new members.

9. Finally, we commend the outstanding contributions of the D-8 Secretariat, whose efforts have been instrumental in driving progress and fostering collaboration among member states. Under the leadership of Secretary General Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretariat has worked tirelessly to advance the organization's goals and deliver meaningful outcomes. As Ambassador Imam concludes his term next December, we express our deepest appreciation for his leadership and wish him continued success.

### **Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**

10. I also take this opportunity to put forward the nomination of D-8 Secretary General from Pakistan, Ambassador Sohail Mehmood, for the term starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. He is among the best of Pakistan's Foreign Service officers having wide experience of multilateral diplomacy and has been Pakistan's Foreign Secretary. I hope that the Council of Foreign Ministers will approve his nomination.

11. Pakistan is committed to the aims and objectives of the D-8 organization. We look forward to working with all D-8 member states under Egypt's leadership. Together, we can build a stronger platform for economic collaboration and shared success.

**Thank you All**

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**STATEMENT BY Türkiye – Waiting to be received from Türkiye**



**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.

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## **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 Granting Observer Status to Regional and International Organizations**

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 to 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.

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> ,21<sup>st</sup> 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**  
**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.