

**Report of the  
49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission  
26 May 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye**

The D-8 Commission convened its 49<sup>th</sup> Session on 26 May 2025 at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby, D-8 Commissioner and Assistant Minister for Multilateral, International, and Regional Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

**Agenda 1: Opening**

The Chair formally opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all delegates and expressing his sincere appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat and the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the session and ensuring excellent logistical arrangements. He commended the Secretariat staff for their diligent efforts in preparing the meeting.

The Chair warmly welcomed the Republic of Azerbaijan as the ninth Member State of the Organization and congratulated Mr. Elmar Mammadov on his appointment as the first-ever D-8 Commissioner from Azerbaijan. He also welcomed Ambassador M. Forhadul Islam and Ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali, the new Commissioners from Bangladesh and Pakistan, respectively, and extended congratulations to Ambassador Mustafa Özcan on his recent appointment as Director-I from Türkiye.

Furthermore, the Chair acknowledged the successful convening of the Senior Officials Meetings held virtually on 12 and 14 May 2025, which facilitated the work of the Commission, particularly by addressing critical financial and legal matters concerning the Secretariat.

The full text of the Chair's opening statement is attached as **Annex II**.

**Agenda 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

The meeting considered and adopted its Agenda, which is attached as **Annex-III**.

**Agenda 3: Statement and Progress Report on Activities Since December 2024 by the D-8 Secretary-General**

- a. *Sectoral Cooperation.*
- b. *External Relations.*

The Secretary General delivered his comprehensive statement to the Commission, outlining the key developments, initiatives, and progress achieved by the Organization since the last session. He also presented the detailed report on the activities of the Secretariat, covering various areas of cooperation, program implementation, and institutional advancements. The full text of the Secretary General's statement is attached as **Annex-IV**.

#### **Agenda 4: Statement by the Heads of the Delegation of Member States**

The heads of delegation of the Member States delivered their national statements underlining the needs to strengthen the Organization's work to the benefit of the people in the D-8 Member States. The statements of the heads of delegation are attached as **Annex V**.

#### **Agenda 5: Consideration of Financial and Administrative Matters of the D-8 Secretariat**

##### a) Discussion on Azerbaijan's budgetary contribution for 2025

The Secretariat presented the proposed scale of assessed contribution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, calculated in accordance with the existing agreed formula of scale of assessment and the most recent available indicators.

Based on this methodology, the Secretariat proposed Azerbaijan's assessed contribution to the D-8 Secretariat Budget for 2025 at 7.41%, amounting to €79,255.36.

The Commission endorsed the proposed Scale of assessment and the corresponding amount.

##### b) Discussion on the best use of Azerbaijan's budgetary contribution for 2025

The Secretary General proposed four scenarios to best use of the Azerbaijan contribution.

The D-8 Commission agreed that the assessed contribution of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the D-8 Secretariat Budget for 2025, amounting to €79,255.36, will be deposited into the General Reserve Fund (GRF), and will be utilized in 2026, in accordance with Article 5 of the Financial Regulations of the D-8 Secretariat.

##### c) Discussion on the revision of the Scale of Assessment for the Contribution of the D-8 Member States to the D-8 Secretariat's budget

The Secretary-General presented the background to the scale of assessment of contribution of Member States and briefed on the decisions taken at the SOM meetings held on 12 and 14 May respectively.

Türkiye mentioned that due to time constraints any new scale may be implemented starting from 2027. The Secretariat may get technical assistance from Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center (SESRI) of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation based in Ankara. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye may provide facilitation.

The Commission decided to establish an ad-hoc committee on budgetary and administrative issues to discuss the new scale of assessment and to present its findings in the next Commission meeting.

##### d) Consideration of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2026

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to revise the proposed 2026 budget to be discussed at its 50th Session.

##### e) Discussion on the outstanding contribution payments

The Secretariat reported on the outstanding contribution from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was caused by economic sanctions and prevents Iran to make foreign exchange transfers.

Pakistan proposed settling the outstanding payments in an alternative currency through diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bangladesh suggested settling the payments in cash, citing a similar arrangement under the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to continue engaging with the Islamic Republic of Iran to identify a viable solution to resolve the outstanding contribution.

f) Salary discrepancies between the Directing Staff and Technical and Administrative Staff

The Commission tasked the ad-hoc committee established under Agenda Item 5.c. to examine the matter in detail, including developing an appropriate salary structure and further tasked the Secretariat to develop a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee.

Pakistan and Türkiye noted that the directing staff receives a comprehensive package, including allowances for housing, representation and domestic aid, which should be taken into account by the committee.

The Commission agreed that the findings of the committee would be submitted directly to the Commission as soon as possible.

g) Sustainable use of the General Reserve Fund (GRF)

The Commission deliberated on the matter and tasked the Secretariat to explore the most suitable risk-free investment options to maintain the sustainability of the GRF.

h) Strengthening the Human Resource Capacity of the Secretariat

The Secretariat presented the following proposals for strengthening the human resource capacity at the Secretariat at the first SOM virtually held on 12 May 2025:

- i. Proposal on recruitment of one (1) additional Secretary.
- ii. Proposal on Secondment Mechanism by the Member States.
- iii. Proposal on nomination for vacant positions (Assistant Director and Program Officer II) in the D-8 Secretariat.

The Commission deliberated upon the proposals and the following interventions were made:

- **Pakistan** requested clarity on the current post holder's tenure and emphasized the need to follow a rotation mechanism.
- **Bangladesh** appreciated the secondment process, requesting a detailed job description and a review of duties for possible redistribution.
- **Türkiye** expressed its readiness to nominate a candidate for the Assistant Director (AD) position once the budget is available.
- **Iran** supported the secondment process and expressed its readiness to assign a diplomat on the secondment basis to the D-8 Secretariat as early as agreed by the Secretary-General.
- **Pakistan** highlighted that, according to the staff regulations Article 9.1, a single Member State cannot simultaneously hold two directing-level positions at the

Secretariat. Since a Director-I from Türkiye is scheduled to join the Secretariat next month, this provision must be observed.

The Commission took note on the need to strengthen the D-8 Secretariat, endorsed in principle the proposal to establish Secondment mechanism with clear terms of reference and requested the Secretariat to consult with the ad-hoc committee to address this matter.

i) Approval of the Disposal Policy of the Secretariat of the old Inventory Items

The Secretary General presented the disposal policy of the old inventory items. After deliberations the Commission authorized the Secretary-General to establish an internal Committee within the Secretariat to decide on the disposal of the old inventory items.

The Commissioner of Pakistan mentioned that the depreciation on the furniture items must be recorded instead of appreciation of the value of the items on its original purchases.

**Agenda 6: Consideration of the Status of the D-8 Legal Instruments**

- a. *The Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA).*
- b. *The Multilateral Agreement Among the D-8 Member Countries on Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (D-8 Customs Agreement).*
- c. *The Agreement on “Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States” (D-8 Visa Agreement).*

The Secretariat presented the latest update on the status of the legal instruments and requested the Member States to update on the matter.

Egypt informed that they are in the process of ratification of the D-8 PTA and that it will soon deposit the instrument of ratification upon its approval by the Parliament.

**Agenda 7: Discussion on the Legal Implications and the D-8’s Organizational Work in Relation to Azerbaijan’s Accession as a New Member**

- a) *Possible implications for the D-8 legal instruments.*
- b) *Discussion on the nomenclature of the Organization.*
- c) *The principle of alphabetical order rotation.*

Bangladesh proposed that Azerbaijan may nominate Directing Staff level positions at the Secretariat only after the current rotation cycle is completed, thereby starting the new cycle immediately thereafter.

The Commission took note of the matters of possible implications for the D-8 legal Instruments as well as the principle of alphabetical order rotation and the views presented by the Member States and tasked the ad-hoc committee to further deliberate upon the matter in detail and present its recommendations to the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for review.

The Commission decided to maintain the name of the Organization.

## **Agenda 8: Discussion on new initiatives from Member States**

The Commissioner of Azerbaijan briefed the meeting on the proposals of the establishment of new D-8 Affiliate bodies as follows:

- a. *Establishing a D-8 Media Excellence Center to facilitate cooperation among media agencies among the D-8 Member States.*
- b. *Establishing D-8 Energy and Climate Center, which will focus on fossil-based and renewable energy sectors and align climate action initiatives.*
- c. *Establishing a D-8 Transport Center of Excellence to forge effective operationalization of various D-8 initiatives in transportation cooperation.*

Egypt presented an update on the following initiatives and called upon all Member States to submit their focal points on these initiatives.

- a) *D-8 Network for Economic Think Tanks.*
- b) *D-8 Network of Diplomatic Institutes.*
- c) *D-8 Collaborative Education Initiative.*

The Commissioner of Nigeria presented the following proposal:

- a) *Establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly Body of D-8 Member States.*

The Commission welcomed the proposals presented by the Member States on the establishment of new initiatives and centers and tasked the Secretariat to work closely with the proponents to make sure that the proposed initiatives are aligned with the D-8 core objectives.

The Commission also noted some of the Member States' views on the need to exercise caution regarding the burden of having too many affiliated bodies.

The Commission agreed to further develop the proposed concept notes for the D-8 Energy and Climate Action Center, the D-8 Media Excellence Center, and the D-8 Transport Center of Excellence, as affiliate bodies proposed by Azerbaijan, through inclusive process involving respective national focal points of D-8 Member States.

The Commissioner of Pakistan offered to host the meetings of the D-8 Economic Think Tanks and the Diplomatic Institutes in 2025, upon consultation with Egypt.

While referring to the report of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission held in Istanbul on 15-16 February 2023, where his delegation had proposed the same initiative, the Commissioner of Iran welcomed the Nigerian proposal on a D-8 Parliamentary Assembly.

## **Agenda 9: Consideration of the Secretariat's Proposals**

- a. *Establishment of D-8 Committees in Third Countries and International Organizations.*

The Commission endorsed the proposal for the establishment of the D-8 Contact Points in Third Countries and International Organizations and tasked the Secretary General with liaising with the Chairman-in-office to prioritize operationalizing the Contact Points in relevant countries and international organizations.

The Commission also tasked the Secretary-General to identify possible D-8 meetings on the margins of international conferences where all Member States also attend, for example a meeting of D-8 representatives during the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) scheduled for Yaoundé, Cameroon, in March 2026, and other similar high-level conferences.

b. D-8 Games

Indonesia informed the Commission that in principle it agreed to host the proposed games and invited the Secretariat to liaise with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia to revise the concept note and determine the funding sources for the proposed badminton tournament.

### **Agenda 10: Progress report on the Member States' initiatives**

- a. *D-8 Youth Council.*
- b. *D-8 Special Economic Zone.*
- c. *D-8 SME Center.*

a) D-8 Youth Council

The Commissioner of Bangladesh informed the meeting that his government has submitted all relevant documents for establishing the D-8 Youth Council in Dhaka, particularly the draft constitution, following the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Dhaka in May 2024. He invited all Member States to provide input to the draft Constitution, which will help expedite its operationalization.

The Secretariat informed the Commission that it circulated the draft Constitution to the Member States and, thus far, received feedback from Egypt, Iran and Türkiye. The Commission called upon the remaining Member States to provide their inputs on the draft Constitution.

b) D-8 SME Center

Nigeria informed the Commission that the formal inauguration of the proposed center is planned on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in Abuja and called upon all Member States to participate in the launching of the center.

c) D-8 Special Economic Zones

Bangladesh informed the Commission that the inaugural virtual meeting held in July 2023 on this initiative and relevant information were provided to all the Member States. He also called upon all interested Member States to participate and invest in the SEZ.

The Commission took note of the progress which will further strengthen the Organization in achieving its objectives and called upon the Member States to actively participate in those initiatives.

### **Agenda 11: Progress report by the Affiliated Bodies of D-8**

The Heads/focal person of the D-8 Affiliate bodies made their presentation and presented the progress made of the following Affiliate bodies.

- a. *D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office (D-8 HSP).*
- b. *D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI).*
- c. *D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN).*
- d. *D-8 International University (D-8 IU).*
- e. *D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI).*
- f. *D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS).*

The Commission carefully noted the progress report presented by the D-8 affiliated bodies, namely the D-8 TTEN, D-8 HSP, the D-8 IU, and the D-8 NPRI, and conveyed its appreciation to them for their active contribution in promoting and organizing tangible projects to support the Organization's work.

The Commission underlined the need to align the affiliated bodies' work with the cooperation agenda of the D-8 Organization. To this end, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to work closely with the D-8 affiliated bodies.

### **Agenda 12: Progress Reports on the Following Private Sector Initiatives**

The Secretary General presented the progress on the following private Sector Initiatives:

- c. *D-8 Payment Card.*
- d. *D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC).*
- e. *D-8 Barter Trading System.*

The Commission took note of the progress achieved under the private sector initiatives and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its engagement and collaboration with the private sector. The Commission recognized that, once implemented, these initiatives have the potential to make a meaningful impact and contribute significantly to the economic development of the Member States.

### **Agenda 13: Update on the Calendar of Events for 2026**

The Secretariat presented the draft Calendar of events for 2025-2026 and invited all Member States to provide their update.

The D-8 Commission noted the additional proposal by the Member States as reflected in the updated Calendar of Events, enclosed as **Annex VI**.

### **Agenda 14: Date and Venue for the Next D-8 Commission Meeting**

Egypt informed the Commission that it would update on the date and venue for the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the D-8 Commission as soon as possible.

### **Agenda 15: Any Other Business**

Pakistan called on the D-8 Member States to express collective support to his country in relation to the recent escalated conflict with its neighboring country, citing similar practices demonstrated by other international organizations.

Bangladesh raised the question and sought clarification on the travel expenditures of the D-8 Secretariat, underlining that some travels did not directly correlate with the D-8 objectives and

priorities. He emphasized that all travels should be judicious and directly beneficial to the Organization's endeavor to achieve its objectives. He further proposed that future travels by the D-8 Secretariat, at all levels, should be conducted after expressed approval from the troika (immediate past, current, and incoming/future Chairman-in-Office), citing a similar example from other international organizations.

The Commission invited the esteemed delegate of Bangladesh to present his concerns in writing to guide the Secretariat in addressing the matter.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General explained that all travels conducted by the Secretariat are relevant to its work in managing the day-to-day operations of the Organization. He further underlined that the majority of the travels were conducted upon invitation at the highest level, which would not portray a good image if those invitations were not responded to positively.

Bangladesh also proposed the establishment of an agreement on visa free arrangement for the holders of diplomatic and official passports from the D-8 Member States.

The Secretariat recalled that a concept note on the agreement on diplomatic and official visa free arrangement was circulated to the Member States and deliberated during the Commission's 46<sup>th</sup> Session, held in Istanbul in February 2023. The Commission recalled that majority of the Member States required further internal consultation on the proposal.

The Commission tasked the Secretariat to recirculate the concept note to the Member States for their further review and encouraged them to provide feedback. The Commission decided to include this matter as an item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Commission, listing all the input received from the Member States.

### **Agenda 16: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**

The Commission considered and adopted the report of its 49<sup>th</sup> Session.

### **Agenda 17: Closing**

The Secretary General expressed sincere gratitude to all delegates for their valuable participation in the meeting, particularly in providing valuable guidance to advance the work of the Organization and the Secretariat. He also extended special commendation to the Chair for exemplary leadership throughout the session.

The delegates praised the Secretariat and the Republic of Türkiye for their outstanding hospitality and impeccable organization of the event.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked all delegates for their insightful contributions, reflecting the spirit of collaboration. He thanked the Secretary-General and the Secretariat's team for the preparation and organization of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Chair declared the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission closed.

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**List of Participants**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**  
**held under Egypt's D-8 Chairmanship**  
**Istanbul, 26 May 2025**

**Azerbaijan**

**1. H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadov**

Head of Economic Cooperation Department/D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**2. Mr. Sabuhi Gasimov**

First Secretary, Economic Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Bangladesh**

**1. H.E. Mr. M. Forhadul Islam**

Director General (International Organizations)/D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Egypt**

**1. H.E. Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby**

Assistant Minister for Multilateral International and Regional Economic Affairs/D-8 Commissioner of Egypt, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates

**2. Ambassador Hazem Zaki**

Deputy Assistant Minister for Regional Economic Organizations Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates

**3. Mr. Sherif Zahran**

Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Istanbul

**Indonesia**

**1. H.E. Achmad Rizal Purnama**

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Türkiye in Ankara

**2. Mr. Ary Aprianto**

Minister Counsellor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**3. Mr. Hudzaifah Abdullah**

Third Secretary, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Ankara

## **Iran**

- 1. H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaeddin Alavi Sabzevari**  
D-8 Commissioner of Iran (Head of Delegation), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2. Ms. Yasaman Yeganeh**  
D-8 Desk Officer, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 3. Mr. Aboulghasem Tahmsebi,**  
Consular Officer, Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul

## **Malaysia**

- 1. H.E. Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali**  
Undersecretary for OIC and Regional Cooperation Division/D-8 Commissioner of Malaysia, Department of Multilateral Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2. Mr. Ahmad bin Ariffin**  
Assistant Secretary, OIC and Regional Cooperation Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **Nigeria**

- 1. H.E. Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, Ph.D.**  
Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2. Ambassador Abdussalam Habu Zayyad**  
Charge d'Affaires a.i., the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Ankara
- 3. Mr. Laren Cletus Jingina**  
Counsellor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 4. Mrs. Oghenerobo Anna Oladimeji-Ibikunle**  
Counsellor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 5. Mr. Abubakar Muhammad Habib**  
First Secretary, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Ankara

## **Pakistan**

- 1. H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali**  
Additional Secretary (SIFC & ED)/D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **Türkiye**

- 1. Ambassador Aylin Sekizkök**  
Director General for International Economic Affairs/D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2. Ambassador Mustafa Özcan**  
Ambassador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 3. Mr. Kemal Batuhan Yazıcı**  
Third Secretary, Deputy Directorate General for International Economic Policies and Organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Agenda of the  
49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission,  
26-27 May, Istanbul, Türkiye**

1. Opening.
2. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda.
3. Statement and Progress Report on Activities Since December 2024 by the D-8 Secretary-General:
  - a. Sectoral Cooperation.
  - b. External Relations.
4. Statement by the Heads of the Delegation of Member States (five minutes each).
5. Consideration of Financial and Administrative Matters of the D-8 Secretariat:
  - a. Discussion on Azerbaijan's budgetary contribution for 2025.
  - b. Discussion on the best use of Azerbaijan's budgetary contribution for 2025.
  - c. Discussion on the revision to the scale of assessment of the Member States.
  - d. Consideration of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2026.
  - e. Discussion on the outstanding contribution payments.
  - f. Salary discrepancies between the Directing Staff position and general/local staff.
  - g. Sustainable use of the General Reserve Fund (GRF).
  - h. Strengthening the Human Resource Capacity of the Secretariat.
  - i. Approval of the Disposal Policy of the Secretariat of the old Inventory Items.
6. Consideration of the Status of the D-8 Legal Instruments.
7. Discussion on the Legal Implications and the D-8's Organizational Work in Relation to Azerbaijan's Accession as a New Member.
  - a. Possible implications for the D-8 legal instruments.
  - b. Discussion on the nomenclature of the Organization.
  - c. The principle of alphabetical order rotation.
8. Discussion on new initiatives from Member States:
  - a. D-8 Energy and Climate Action Center, as an affiliated body (Azerbaijan).
  - b. D-8 Media Association, as an affiliated body (Azerbaijan).
  - c. D-8 Transport Center of Excellence, as an affiliated body (Azerbaijan).
  - d. D-8 Network for Economic Think Tanks (Egypt).
  - e. D-8 Network of Diplomatic Institutes (Egypt).
  - f. D-8 Collaborative Education Initiative (Egypt).
  - g. Establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly Body of D-8 Member States (Nigeria).
9. Consideration of the Secretariat's Proposals:
  - a. Establishing D-8 Committee in Third Countries and international organizations.
  - b. D8 Games – Badminton.

10. Progress report on the Member States' initiatives:
  - a. D-8 Youth Council (Bangladesh).
  - b. D-8 Special Economic Zone (Bangladesh).
  - c. D-8 SME Center (Nigeria).
  
11. Progress report by the Affiliated Bodies of D-8:
  - a. D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office.
  - b. D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI).
  - c. D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN).
  - d. D-8 International University.
  - e. D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI).
  - f. D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS).
  
12. Progress Reports on the Following Private Sector Initiatives:
  - a. D-8 Payment Card.
  - b. D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (CEFC).
  - c. D-8 Barter Trading System.
  
13. Update on the Calendar of Events for 2026.
  
14. Date and Venue for the Next D-8 Commission Meeting.
  
15. Any Other Business.
  
16. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission.
  
17. Closing.

**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**

**26-27 May 2025**

**Welcome Statement by the Chair**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Commissioners,**

**Esteemed Colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is my honor to officially declare open the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission. I extend to you all a very warm welcome and express sincere appreciation for your presence and active engagement.**

**At the outset, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this meeting and for their continued dedication to the effective functioning of the Organization.**

**It also gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome the Republic of Azerbaijan as the newest member of the D-8 family. I am delighted to have Azerbaijan participating in the Commission for the first time, and I am confident that its membership will enrich our collective efforts and foster deeper cooperation across priority areas.**

**I am equally pleased to be here in the beautiful and historic city of Istanbul, a city that exemplifies connection and dialogue, values at the heart of our Organization.**

**Colleagues,**

**We meet today following months of productive coordination, including two virtual expert-level meetings held on 12 and 14 May, which helped to advance discussions on key financial and administrative matters. I would like to thank our experts who took part in those meetings and contributed to the constructive outcomes that will guide our work here.**

**Excellencies,**

**This session presents a valuable opportunity to deliberate on a wide range of agenda items, including:**

- The financial position and proposed budget for 2026;**
- The scale of assessment and the use of the General Reserve Fund;**
- Efforts to strengthen the human resource capacity of the Secretariat;**
- Updates on the status of legal instruments and affiliated bodies; and**
- New proposals and initiatives from Member States.**

**In our discussions, let us maintain a strong focus on the efficient and responsible management of financial resources, ensuring that our decisions are sustainable, practical, and aligned with the priorities of the Organization.**

**I trust that this session will be inclusive, balanced, and results-oriented. Through open dialogue and shared commitment, we can continue to strengthen the D-8 and advance our collective development goals.**

**With that, I thank you once again for your engagement and cooperation.**

**I now declare the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission officially open.**

**Statement by HIS Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir  
Imam, Secretary general of the Developing-8 Organization for  
Economic Cooperation at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission  
Istanbul, 26-27 May 2025**

**Honourable Chair,**

**Your Excellencies, D-8 Commissioners,**

**Your Excellencies Ambassadors,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Asalam o Alaikum and Good Morning to you all,

I welcome all of you the D-8 Secretariat and to Istanbul for the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission. My team, and I, are truly honored to host you here. Please be rest assured that we will spare no effort to ensure that your time here is both productive and enjoyable.

I thank Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby, our able Chair, and his team, for guiding us in preparing for this session. I trust that our meeting today, and tomorrow, will be successful, under his leadership.

The Egyptian team's successful convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit in Cairo on 19 December, last year, is still fresh in our minds. Drawing from such a vivid memory, I am confident that today's meeting will also be successful.

I also thank the Government of Türkiye for its unwavering support in hosting the Secretariat, which is now equipped with a modern and befitting facility. We moved to this new facility in November last year and officially inaugurated it, last January. Therefore, I am happy that the D-8 Commission decided to convene its 49<sup>th</sup> Session here in the new Secretariat's premises.

## **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

I want to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the new members of our family. I am pleased to welcome **Mr. M. Forhadul Islam**, Director General (International Organizations), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**, and **Ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali**, Additional Secretary (Special Investment Facilitation Council & Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the new D-8 Commissioners of their respective states.

Also, I welcome **Mr. Elmar Mammadov**, the Head of the Economic Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the D-8 Commissioner from Azerbaijan. We are confident our new colleagues will make valuable contributions, to advancing our common goals and objectives.

Before continuing, allow me to congratulate us all, on the successful expansion of our organization, with the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as our ninth member. This is a significant milestone for us and we have our leaders to thank for their visionary leadership and collective wisdom, that made this possible. I am fortunate that this milestone happened, during my tenure, as Secretary General. I am optimistic that Azerbaijan's accession will significantly bolstering our collaboration agenda.

## **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Since our last meeting, namely the 48<sup>th</sup> Commission, in Cairo last December, our organization has recorded significant progress. A detailed progress report on both sectoral cooperation and external relations have been submitted, for your consideration. However, allow me to highlight some of our key achievements, contained in the mentioned progress report.

On **trade**, Pakistan officially commenced the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), 1 January 2025. With this development, we now have six contracting members—Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Türkiye—that are actively trading under the provisions of the D-8 PTA.

In the area of **Tourism**, Egypt successfully convened the fourth Ministerial Meeting on **Tourism** in Cairo last month. The meeting adopted the “Cairo Declaration on Tourism Cooperation 2025.” Chief among its provisions is institutionalizing the “D-8 Tourism City of the Year” award. The City of Antalya in Türkiye is the maiden recipient of the Award in 2025. Soon, we will announce the call for nominations for the Award in 2026.

In addition, the Secretariat partnered with TRT to produce the first official D-8 Tourism Promotional Video, underscoring efforts to enhance the global visibility of D-8 destinations.

In the **agricultural and food security sector**, we organized a High-Impact Webinar on climate-smart agriculture last April, in collaboration with the Global Environmental and Climate Conservation Initiative, an NGO based in Nigeria.

Next month, the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS), will organize the D-8 Bioinformatics Bootcamp, themed “Advancing Genomic Research and Computational Agriculture in D-8 Member States”, in Faisalabad, Pakistan. So far, around 30 participants from the D-8 member states have registered to participate.

In **other sectors**, our organization will also convene several other activities this year, ranging from ministerial meetings, to capacity-building workshops. Allow me to use this opportunity to appeal to the esteemed Member States, through you, distinguished Commissioners, to encourage their participation in those scheduled activities.

**Honourable Chair**

**Excellencies, Distinguished participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On the **external front**, we managed to elevate our organization's profile across our member states and globally. Our organization's global visibility is significantly increasing. We do this by proactively engaging with our member states and external partners, by attending relevant activities of our partners and establishing joint action plans. For example, we are developing action plans with the Islamic Development Bank and the OIC. Furthermore, a crucial MoU is also being negotiated with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to enhance our agricultural cooperation agenda. I invite our Member States to contribute ideas for inclusion in those action plans. A comprehensive progress report on external relations has also been submitted for your consideration.

We also revamped our engagement with the **private sector**. We have ongoing private-sector-led initiatives in the pipeline, such as the 'new generation barter trading', the 'creative economic and financial center', and the payment system. The summary of the progress report private sector engagement has also been submitted to you.

Our organization's **affiliate bodies** have also contributed to various activities, during the period under review. A summary of their recent progress and achievements of the affiliate bodies has been submitted for this Commission's consideration and review. Later, the Heads of the respective affiliate bodies will deliver brief presentations, directly to you. I would like to use this opportunity to thank member states who have submitted proposals to host various new affiliate bodies in their respective jurisdiction, to strengthen our collaboration further.

## **Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

A comprehensive Agenda, will guide this Commission's session. Accordingly, the Commission is expected to deliberate and consider various crucial matters, from administrative and legal issues, to operational and institutional matters. Therefore, this Session will deliberate on the following issues, amongst others:

- i. Proposed scale of assessment for our new member and the overhaul of the existing scale of assessment, adopted in 2008.
- ii. The D-8 Secretariat's budget for 2026.
- iii. Strategies to strengthen the Secretariat human resources.
- iv. Legal implications and operationalization of the Organization, following Azerbaijan's accession.
- v. New initiatives and proposals from the esteemed Member States, in addition to taking stock of the existing initiatives.

Allow me to report that Mr. Ahmar Ismail, the Director for Administrative, Legal, and Internal Affairs, will officially leave the Secretariat next month. I thank the Government of Pakistan for sending a seasoned diplomat as the Director. I am sure that his successor, who is also a seasoned diplomat from Türkiye, will continue the stellar work as the Director for Administrative, Legal, and Internal Affairs. I am happy that the incoming Director, Ambassador Mustafa Ozcan, is here with us today. Therefore, I am confident he will hit the ground running, once he joins the Secretariat, next month. Also, I wish to thank the Government of Bangladesh for lending us an able diplomat, as the immediate past Programme Officer, who completed his term in August last year. I wish to appeal to the next member state (Iran) to nominate the next Programme Officer, without whom the Secretariat could not run as fast as it should.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, I want to reiterate my confidence that your wisdom, experience, and guidance, will lead to fruitful outcomes. Allow me to call for a collaboration in a spirit of solidarity, mutual respect, and forward-looking to materialize our organization's full potential for the utmost benefit of our people.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support, for the Secretariat, and active participation in the activities of the Organization. I wish us a productive and result-oriented meeting.

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Commissioners, Mr. Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome extended to the Azerbaijani delegation by brotherly Türkiye and the D-8 Secretariat. We would like to also express gratitude to brotherly Egypt for inviting Azerbaijan to the Cairo Summit. This is our inaugural participation in this esteemed gathering as a new member of the D-8 Organization. We are honored to join this collective effort dedicated to fostering South-South cooperation, economic resilience and sustainable development.

Azerbaijan fully endorses the foundational principles and strategic objectives of the D-8. Our membership symbolizes Azerbaijan's unwavering determination to actively contribute to the organization's noble mission. We aim to enhance mutual economic cooperation, promote inclusive and sustainable growth as well as jointly address global and regional challenges.

Esteemed colleagues, our communities currently face critical interconnected challenges. Energy security, climate change and the need for sustainable infrastructure development demand coordinated and innovative responses. These can only be effectively addressed through international cooperation and meaningful partnerships.

In this context, Azerbaijan is privileged to propose two timely initiatives aligned closely with the strategic priorities outlined in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030) and the recent Cairo Declaration of 2024. These initiatives—the establishment of the D-8 Energy and Climate Center along with the D-8 Transport Excellence Center—are designed to address regional needs through targeted, actionable and collaborative frameworks.

The D-8 Energy and Climate Center, proposed to be hosted by Azerbaijan, aims to become a pivotal regional platform. It will foster robust collaboration, policy innovation and capacity-building efforts among D-8 member states. This center will focus on ensuring synergy between energy security and energy transition, development of renewable energy, energy efficiency as well as climate adaptation and mitigation strategies aligned with sustainable development. Additionally, it will serve as a strategic hub for dialogue, data sharing and technical cooperation contributing directly

to global climate objectives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In alignment with Azerbaijan's current role of COP29 Presidency, we foresee the D-8 Energy and Climate Center significantly enhancing regional cooperation on climate action and sustainable development. Azerbaijan fully commits to providing the necessary financial, institutional and technical support for the center's successful establishment and operation. We firmly believe this initiative will enhance climate resilience and sustainability across the D-8 community.

Concurrently, Azerbaijan also proposes establishing the D-8 Transport Excellence Center in our country. This initiative leverages Azerbaijan's strategic geographical position at the crossroads between East and West as well as North and South. Efficient and sustainable transport systems are crucial for regional integration, trade facilitation and economic growth. The center will promote innovation, knowledge exchange, technical expertise and harmonization of transport standards.

Our vision for the Transport Excellence Center includes improving logistics performance and developing sustainable transport infrastructure. These measures aim to significantly enhance regional connectivity and economic competitiveness. Drawing upon Azerbaijan's experience in logistics modernization, strategic transport corridors and sustainable infrastructure projects, this center will substantially contribute to improved trade efficiency and regional integration.

To ensure inclusivity, transparency, and collective ownership, we propose establishing Technical Advisory Groups for both centers. These groups, with representatives from each D-8 member state, will collaboratively develop operational details, governance structures and financial arrangements during next 2-3 months. This inclusive process will ensure robust and effective outcomes aligned with our shared priorities.

In addition, Azerbaijan has proposed the establishment of a D-8 Media Center. The main goal of this center is to create a professional platform for effective media cooperation among member states. It aims to strengthen information exchange, counter disinformation, build professional capacity and promote the D-8's visibility on the global stage. The Media Center will foster the sharing of best practices and facilitate joint media projects that support sustainable development and people-to-people connectivity within the D-8 community.

I would also like to highlight the successful visit of the D-8 Secretary General to Baku in March of this year, which gave a fresh impetus to our cooperation agenda. In this context, Azerbaijan is pleased to announce its intention to host three major D-8 events in the coming period: the D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Climate, the D-8 Youth Forum and the D-8 Media Forum. These events will serve as important platforms to advance our shared objectives and to demonstrate the diversity and unity of our organization. Azerbaijan deeply values the spirit of partnership and collaboration exemplified by the D-8 member states and the Secretariat. We reiterate our commitment to constructive engagement and mutual support. We also eagerly look forward to contributing actively to future successful endeavors within the framework of the D-8.

In conclusion, distinguished colleagues, Azerbaijan remains committed to collaboratively working with all D-8 member states. Through joint initiatives, solidarity and effective cooperation, we can significantly advance the sustainable and prosperous future of our region and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.

**Hon'ble Chair**

**Fellow Commissioners Distinguished**

**Delegates Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamualaikum, good morning and warm greetings to all.

It is a great honor for me to join you for the first time as the Bangladesh Commissioner in this beautiful and historic city of Istanbul, a vibrant hub of trade, culture, and cooperation. I also extend my gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye for offering such warm hospitality to the Commissioners.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Azerbaijan on becoming a proud member of our organization. The more members we have, the merrier! I welcome the Azerbaijan Commissioner as our new team member. My dear friend, I have no doubt that your presence will add significant value to our activities.

I would like to express Bangladesh's deep appreciation to the D-8 Chair, and the Secretariat for organizing this meeting. I hope it will bring greater success!

**Excellencies,**

This Commission meets amid persistent global uncertainties. Ongoing conflicts, inflationary pressures, compartmentalization in global politics, risk in globalization, trade war among the world leaders, disruptions in global supply chains, and the worsening climate crisis continue to challenge our economies. As developing nations with shared aspirations and

complementary strengths, we must leverage this platform not only to confront these challenges but also to shape our collective future. As an active member of the D-8, Bangladesh remains deeply committed to the goals and priorities we have defined together.

The D-8 PTA has been ratified, yet trade among us still remains far below its potential. We must now focus on implementation - activating the PTA, promoting digital commerce, easing regulatory bottlenecks, empowering and enriching our youth, and creating better financing and logistics mechanisms for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). We should also consider moving beyond the PTA and work towards establishing an FTA among our nations. Additionally, we should implement AI-based marketing mechanisms to minimize the involvement of intermediaries and to maximize the benefits for both producers and end-users.

Distinguished Delegates,

Bangladesh places a high priority on inclusive development. We firmly believe that empowering youth and investing in food security are two of the most powerful drivers of sustainable growth. That is why we take pride in having initiated the first D-8 Youth Ministerial Meeting, as well as in hosting the 7th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security. We believe these platforms are crucial for building human capital and creating climate-resilient food systems across our member states. To minimize food insufficiency within the D-8 member states, Bangladesh is ready to submit a Concept Note on a Contract Farming Model for your kind consideration.

We also welcome the progress made in establishing the D-8 Youth Council and urge continued support to operationalize it in the near future. As part of this initiative, we are preparing to organize the D-8 Youth Multi-Stakeholder Meeting,

which we aim at holding by this year, as proposed by the Honorable Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh at the 11th D-8 Summit. The drafting of the Concept Paper for this meeting is almost finalized from our part. Once fully completed, it will be shared with the member states through the Secretariat for further improvements. We are confident that implementing such initiatives will empower our youth not only to participate but also to lead in innovation, entrepreneurship, and policy discourse.

Excellencies,

However, meaningful development cannot be achieved in isolation from the global realities. We must continue to raise our collective voice on pressing humanitarian issues. Bangladesh calls upon the D-8 to remain engaged and vocal in addressing challenges such as the Rohingya repatriation crisis, the ongoing sufferings in Gaza, and other conflict-prone regions. While the D-8 primarily serves as an economic forum, democracy, human rights, peace, stability, and justice are essential prerequisites for sustainable prosperity.

Dear Colleagues,

In the spirit of transparency and effectiveness, we support enhancing the Secretariat's financial governance, ensuring that our resources are aligned with strategic priorities and yield measurable outcomes. We believe this will further strengthen trust, fairness, and equity across all the levels of our organization.

You will agree that the Secretariat's expenditures should be audited to ensure that the funds used yield performance and real outcomes. Allocations for one area should not be incurred in another. All officials should be treated equally, and I believe that such practices should be firmly in place.

Respected Chair,

As we look ahead, let us remind ourselves of the incredible potential of our organization: a combined population of over 1.1 billion, a shared vision for economic transformation, and an established roadmap. What we need now is resolve - to act boldly, collaborate deeply, and think far-sightedly! Bangladesh reiterates its unwavering commitment to the D-8's vision of shared prosperity, and we look forward to working closely with all the member states to turn our collective ambitions into real progress.

Let us be the generation of leaders who turn ideals into actions and aspirations into achievements. Let us build a D-8 legacy that future generations will celebrate - not just for its vision but also for its action.

Thank you all

**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**

**26-27 May 2025**

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt**

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Commissioners and Delegates,**

**I would like to start by expressing our appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting us in the beautiful city of Istanbul, and to the Secretariat for its dedicated preparations and hospitality efforts, especially in this new distinguished premises.**

**I wish also to seize this occasion to extend a warm welcome to the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as it joins us in its first Commission meeting, as a full Member State. Azerbaijan's accession marks an important milestone for the D-8 Organization, and we look forward to its active participation and contributions to our shared vision for cooperation and development.**

**Mr Chair,**

**As we will address the financial and administrative matters before us during our meetings today and tomorrow, Egypt underscores the centrality of fiscal responsibility and long-term planning. In this respect, we certainly acknowledge the expanding scope of the Organization's work, however, we do not support reliance on large or frequent budget increases. Rather, we advocate for more efficient resource utilization, strategic reallocation, and prioritization within existing budgets to meet emerging needs without placing additional strain on Member States.**

**On the matter of nomenclature, Egypt supports maintaining the current name of the Organization. We believe this is the most practical and appropriate course of action, allowing us to preserve continuity while focusing our energy on deepening substantive cooperation.**

**Distinguished Commissioners and delegates,**

**Following the successful meetings and summit that Egypt hosted in Cairo, last December, I would like to reconfirm that Egypt is determined to continue to contribute actively in the hosting and participating in the D-8's sectoral meetings during the**

remainder of its presidency. In this framework, I would like highlight that Earlier this month, we hosted the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Cairo, which concluded with the adoption of the Cairo Declaration on Tourism Cooperation. Furthermore, we are currently preparing to host the upcoming Ministerial Meetings on Health and on Trade later this year, and look forward to continued collaboration with all Member States.

Moreover, Egypt is advancing a set of strategic initiatives aimed at fostering knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among the member states. These include the D-8 Network of Economic Think Tanks, the D-8 Network of Diplomatic Institutes, and the D-8 Collaborative Education Initiative, all of which were highlighted at the Cairo Summit last December. We highly encourage our partners to actively engage with these platforms through the nomination of focal points and participation in upcoming activities.

Finally, Egypt reaffirms its commitment to consensus-based dialogue, institutional discipline, and practical cooperation, and we look forward to productive deliberations and to working closely with all delegations to advance the goals of the Organization.

Thank you.

**Statement by Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission**  
**26-27 May 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye**

His Excellency Ragui El-Etreby, Chair and D-8 Commissioner for Egypt,  
His Excellency Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, D-8 Secretary General,  
Excellencies D-8 Commissioners,

1. I wish to thank D-8 Secretariat for hosting this session, and the Government of Türkiye for the warm welcome extended to us.

→ I would also like to welcome to Mr. Elmar Mammadov on his first D-8 meeting.

Excellencies,

2. Our world is at a critical juncture.

→ The architecture of globalization now retreats into protectionism and isolation.

3. While national interests are vital, they must not obstruct others' progress.

→ This self-centered approach must be challenged.

4. D-8 must unite against self-serving attitudes.

→ It is high time for genuine collaboration.

5. As leaders of the Global South, D-8 must shape a fairer world,

→ Embodying the spirit of the Bandung Declaration.

6. Our collaboration must yield measurable results.

→ We need initiatives that drive sustainable development and regional integration.

7. We must turn our Leaders' mandates from Cairo Summit into action:

→ **Economic Cooperation:** by expanding the D-8 PTA; foster blue and halal economies for sustainable growth

→ **Innovation:** by accelerating investment in science, technology, and research to drive innovation.

→ **Human Capital Development:** through equipping our youth with skills and opportunities for a brighter future.

8. Indonesia is committed to collaborating with all members to realize these ambitious goals.

9. Our focus must be on impactful outcomes.

→ And accordingly, we must prioritize efficiency and effectiveness in all D-8 initiatives.

Excellencies,

10. Our pursuit of prosperity must uphold our shared humanity.

→ In this regard, I would like to recall our Leaders' commitment to support Palestine.

11. D-8 must take concrete actions to champion the Palestinian cause and advocate for justice.
12. Indonesia, Egypt, and Türkiye will co-chair certain roundtables at the conference on the two-state solution in New York, in June.
  - ➔ I urge all D-8 members to engage actively for meaningful outcomes.
13. Let this meeting reaffirm our commitment to making D-8 a catalyst for progress and collaboration.
14. As Indonesia prepares to assume D-8 Chairmanship,
  - ➔ we pledge to make D-8 a hub for collaboration and growth

Thank you.

**Statement by Amb. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari  
D-8 Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**At the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of D-8 Commission  
Istanbul, 26 May 2025**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Fellow Commissioners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure to participate in this session of the D-8 Commission here in this beautiful city of Istanbul. We are indebted to the host country Republic of Turkiye and Ambassador Aylin Sekizkok, for all services and facilities rendered to the D-8, including this new D-8 premises

We are grateful to Ambassador Imam and his able team at the Secretariat for excellent hosting and arranging this meeting. I congratulate Ambassador Mostafa Ozcan for his joining the D-8 Secretariat as Director I. I appreciate services rendered by Mr. Ahmar and wish him all the success.

I would like to express my confidence that under the able leadership of Ambassador El-Etreby we will have a successful meeting in these coming 2 days.

Let me continue by highlighting the importance of the first-ever D-8 enlargement and welcome the Republic of Azerbaijan as our new member.

I also congratulate and welcome all new members of the Commission from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Republic of Azerbaijan; Ambassadors Ahmed Amjad Ali, Forhadul Islam and Elmar Ammadov. We rely on the enhanced momentum and energy that you are bringing into the Commission.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This meeting comes at a time when the global landscape is facing complex and multifaceted challenges--ranging from conflicts, uncertainties and disorders. In such a context, regional and multilateral collaboration is now more crucial than ever before.

The D-8 Organization, which was founded with the goal of enhancing the position of developing nations in the global economy, has yet to realize its full potential for the interest of its members. It has whatever it needs to

become a complete success story among multilateral economic organizations.

D-8 Summit in Cairo was a turning point for our Organization. It regenerated momentum within D-8. The Commission has a key role to translate this new powerful momentum into concrete actions and tangible improvements.

We see enormous capacity to deepen cooperation in areas such as new and emerging technologies, including AI, trade, investment, connectivity, energy, tourism, food security, and digital economy. We need to invest more on human resource development across our societies and sectors. Youth and SMEs/private sector were main focuses of the Summit in Cairo and we need to build upon that strong spirit. We recognize the vital role of youth and women in the development and prosperity for our nations.

D-8 needs to be more resilient and prepared to assist its members in the time of possible shocks in the future.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to the D-8 and its agendas. As regards agenda item for our today meeting, we support any initiative and proposal which makes our organization and its Secretariat stronger and more effective.

We are planning to host some important D-8 meetings, including in the areas of ICT and energy. In the same spirit, we understand the negative impacts of our arrears on the Secretariat. We are handling arrears issue seriously back home and hope to see it settled as early as possible.

I wish this session of the Commission successful outcomes.

**Thank you for your attention.**

**STATEMENT BY**  
**MR. AMIZAL FADZLI RAJALI**  
**D-8 COMMISSIONER FOR MALAYSIA**  
**AT THE 49<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION**  
**ISTANBUL, TURKIYE**  
**26-27 MAY 2025**

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**His Excellency Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby**  
**The Chair of the 49<sup>th</sup> D-8 Commission Meeting**

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

**Distinguished Commissioners,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Introduction**

I would like to begin by congratulating the Government of Turkiye for hosting and thanking their warm hospitality to the Malaysian delegation. I eagerly anticipate the fruitful discussions ahead and appreciate Ambassador Imam and his team's excellent arrangements for this meeting.

2. Please allow me to also join the Chair in welcoming HE Ambassador Ahmad Amjad Ali as the new D-8 Commissioner for Pakistan; Mr. Elmar Mammadov as the new D-8 Commissioner for Azerbaijan; and Mr. M. Forhadul Islam as the new D-8 Commissioner for

the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The incorporation of their experience, expertise, and ideas will greatly enhance the D-8's capacity, enabling it to better support and serve its Member States.

Fellow Commissioners,

### **D-8 Expansion and Azerbaijan's Participation**

3. Malaysia firmly supports the strategic expansion of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation, which is aligned with the vision of the Dhaka Declaration 2021 and the Decennial Roadmap 2020–2030. We believe broadening membership will enhance the Organisation's global influence and advance sustainable development, inclusive growth, and South-South cooperation.

4. In this spirit, Malaysia warmly welcomes the participation of the Commissioner of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this meeting. Azerbaijan's involvement represents a significant opportunity to deepen economic ties and unlock new avenues for collaboration. Malaysia believes that this engagement will greatly enhance connectivity, trade, and innovation within the D-8, thereby fostering a cooperative environment that benefits all Member States.

### **Economic Cooperation within the D-8 Organisation**

Fellow Commissioners,

5. In 2024, the D-8 emerged as the world's third-largest economic bloc, with a combined GDP of approximately USD 5.1 trillion—representing over 5% of global output. This is an important milestone that emphasises D-8's pivotal role in the global economy. It is also encouraging to note that projections show that D-8 Member countries will contribute an impressive 55% of the total GDP of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and are on track to become some of the top 25 economies in the world by 2050.

6. Intra-D-8 trade reached USD 145 billion in 2023, reflecting the bloc's growing economic integration. Malaysia's trade with D-8 countries rose to USD 9.49 billion in 2024—an 11.8% increase—driven by a 20.3% rise in exports to USD 5.67 billion and a 1.2% increase in

imports to USD 3.82 billion. These trends underscore the D-8's potential as a dynamic regional trade and investment platform.

7. The D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) officially took effect in Malaysia on October 1, 2023. This marks a crucial milestone in enhancing economic integration within the region and beyond. Malaysia is fully on board with the effective implementation of the D-8 PTA and is dedicated to collaborating closely with all Member States and the Secretariat. This partnership offers outstanding prospects for growth and success, and Malaysia eagerly anticipates playing a vital role in this transformative initiative!

### **D-8 Secretariat's Budgets for 2026**

Fellow Commissioners,

8. Malaysia acknowledges that the proposed D-8 Secretariat Budget 2026 has been shaped by ongoing global economic uncertainties, contributing to fluctuations in the consumer price index and inflationary pressures.

9. While Malaysia supports the proposed budgetary adjustments in principle, such matters warrant careful policy consideration by all Member States. In this regard, we continue to advocate for prudent financial management and the efficient use of resources, ensuring that contributions are optimally allocated to advance the Organisation's shared objectives in a sustainably and accountable manner.

### **The ASEAN + D8 School of Youth Leadership (Youlead), Cooperation between AKEPT and D-8**

10. Malaysia emphasizes the statement made by the Honourable Minister of Higher Education during the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting in December 2024, which highlighted the significance of education cooperation, particularly in the field of higher education, among D-8 Member States. In this context, he extended an invitation to D-8 Member States to collaborate with the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT).

11. In February 2025, we have a valuable opportunity to hold a meeting with AKEPT and the D-8 Secretariat. This meeting will enable both sides to explore various avenues of cooperation that are beneficial for all D-8 Member States. We hope to conduct further discussions that will lead to the realisation of this cooperation.

## **Conclusion**

Excellencies,

12. As we look ahead, continued collaboration and strategic engagement will be key to advancing the D-8's shared objectives. In this regard, Malaysia warmly invites all D-8 Member States to participate in the 21st Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS), scheduled for 17–20 September 2025 at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur. This premier global event offers a valuable platform to deepen cooperation in the halal sector and support the growth of intra-D-8 trade.

13. In closing, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the D-8 Secretariat and all Member States in building a resilient, dynamic, and inclusive economic community. Let us strive to deliver tangible benefits for our people and future generations. We extend our best wishes for a productive and successful meeting.

Thank you.

*\*843 words (5 mins 37 seconds)*

**STATEMENT DELIVERED**

**BY**

**AMB. DUNOMA UMAR AHMED, *PhD*  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**DURING**

**THE 49<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION  
IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE**

**26<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**Mr. Chairman,  
The Secretary General,  
Distinguished D-8 Commissioners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to our host, the Republic of Türkiye, for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in Istanbul. I would also like to thank and congratulate the Chair for convening the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D8 Commission. I am confident that, under your stewardship, the organisation will continue to thrive and prosper.

2. We commend the Secretary-General's relentless dedication to the service of the D-8 and recognise his unwavering commitment to innovation and strategic guidance, and importantly, for his key role in advancing the vision of the D-8. As the Secretary General's tenure nears completion, we extend our best wishes for his future endeavours.

**Mr. Chair and dear colleagues,**

3. This meeting holds particular significance, as we will be deliberating on key institutional matters, including the Scale of Assessment for Member States' contributions. A fair and balanced framework for financial donations is crucial to the sustainability and operational efficiency of the D-8. Nigeria remains committed to ensuring that discussions on this subject yield an equitable and practical funding formula that would enable our organisation to achieve its objectives effectively and efficiently.

4. Another crucial agenda item is the 2026 Budget of the organisation, which will define the financial priorities and allocation of resources for the

coming year. The Secretariat's ability to implement economic programs, trade initiatives, and developmental frameworks hinges on a well-structured and adequately funded budget. We look forward to effective engagement on this issue while advocating for a robust financial framework that enhances the D-8's capacity to drive meaningful progress among member states.

5. Additionally, the 2026 Calendar and Programs of the D-8 are expected to be finalised during this meeting. These programs are crucial for fostering economic partnerships, diplomatic engagements, and strategic initiatives that will enhance trade, investment, and cooperation across various sectors. We urge all member states to make frank contributions to shaping a forward-looking calendar that reflects our shared aspirations and strengthens the D-8's role in global economic affairs.

6. Nigeria advocates for the establishment of the D-8 Parliamentary Assembly, a non-partisan legislative forum designed to foster economic cooperation and policy alignment among member states. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between policy decisions and implementation, ensuring that resolutions adopted by the D-8 Summit and other governing bodies are translated into actionable frameworks through legislation. The Parliamentary Assembly will play a critical role in the domestication of D8 policy decisions that may require local legislation.

### **Excellences,**

7. Azerbaijan's full ratification and submission of the instrument of accession to the D-8 marks a historic milestone in our collective efforts to enhance economic cooperation and global influence. As the newest member, Azerbaijan brings fresh perspectives, strategic advantages, and a wealth of

expertise, particularly in the energy, transportation, trade and diplomacy sectors. We welcome Azerbaijan's commitment to the principles of the D-8 Charter and look forward to collaborating closely to achieve our shared economic and developmental goals. Furthermore, the legal implications of this accession will be a critical point of discussion during this session, ensuring a smooth integration and strengthening the D-8's legal framework.

8. The D-8 Secretariat's proposed initiatives, including the establishment of D-8 Committees in third countries and international organisations, would provide opportunities to expand the organisation's global footprint. We welcome further discussions on private sector initiatives, including the D-8 Payment Cards, the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Centre, as well as the D-8 Barter Trading System, which will enhance financial inclusion and trade facilitation across member states.

**Dear colleagues,**

9. As we approach the transition of leadership, I urge all member states to extend their support and commitment to the incoming Secretary-General, ensuring a smooth and successful tenure. Nigeria stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to facilitate this transition. We remain dedicated to the D-8's mission, particularly in advancing global trade and socio-economic development. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening cooperation, fostering economic resilience, and positioning the D-8 as a leading force in international economic affairs.

10. Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by the D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan**  
**49th Session of the D-8 Commission**  
**Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye**

**Respected Chair,**  
**Mr. Secretary General,**  
**Distinguished Commissioners, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Assalamo Alaikum and a very good morning.**

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to represent Pakistan at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission. Allow me at the outset to extend our deep appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Türkiye for their gracious hospitality and excellent arrangements for this important meeting. Istanbul, a city where continents converge, stands as a fitting venue for a gathering of nations united by a shared vision of development, cooperation, and solidarity. I would also like to acknowledge the commendable efforts of the D-8 Secretariat in ensuring comprehensive preparation of the working documents and seamless coordination of this session.

**Excellencies,**

We meet at a time when the global landscape is marked by persistent economic and geopolitical challenges. Today the World faces newer and more complex trials including supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, energy insecurity, food scarcity, and the ever-growing threat of climate change. Against this backdrop, our collective response must be driven by the principles of mutual support, innovation, and economic resilience. It is in times such as these that the D-8 platform becomes even more relevant and instrumental as a mechanism for advancing inclusive growth, promoting sustainable development, and safeguarding the interests of the Global South.

Pakistan believes that the D-8 Organization has immense potential to deepen cooperation across critical sectors of our economies. Our member states possess vibrant markets, rich human resources, and emerging industries. By enhancing sectoral collaboration and streamlining trade,

we can not only overcome shared challenges but also create new opportunities for sustainable and equitable growth.

Pakistan remains committed to the broader goals of the D-8 and continues to support the priorities outlined by the Secretary General, particularly in enhancing intra-D-8 visibility and functional collaboration.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Pakistan places strong emphasis on the full and effective implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). We look forward for positive results of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (8<sup>th</sup> SC PTA) scheduled to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in the next month. Pakistan views the PTA as a cornerstone of our economic partnership, one that can catalyze intra-D-8 trade and foster regional value chains. However, we also believe that for the PTA to achieve its intended impact, a timely revision of the existing offer lists and tariff lines is essential.

In addition, Pakistan advocates for the initiation of dialogue toward a D-8 Investment Agreement. We believe that establishing a structured investment regime within the D-8 framework would be instrumental in encouraging cross-border investments, enabling technology transfer, and creating employment opportunities.

### **Excellencies,**

Another key area of focus for Pakistan is Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which form the backbone of our economies. Recognizing their central role in job creation, innovation, and economic resilience, Pakistan is actively advancing the process of ratifying the D-8 MoU on Cooperation among SMEs and Governmental Bodies and we are optimistic that the ratification will be finalized soon.

To translate our commitment into tangible action, Pakistan proposes the holding of a regional capacity-building programme on financial inclusion and SME development, to be hosted by the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) in Islamabad. This program

will focus on digital banking, SME finance, and financial technologies, with the aim of equipping participants from D-8 member states with the tools needed to support the growth of their respective SME sectors.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Human resource development remains another area of strategic importance. In this regard, Pakistan proposes to host a diplomatic training course for junior and mid-career diplomats from D-8 member states, through the Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad. Such a training initiative would provide an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in economic diplomacy, negotiation, and regional cooperation, while strengthening interpersonal and institutional linkages within our organization.

**Excellencies,**

Looking ahead, Pakistan is honored to assume the responsibility of the D-8 Secretary General in 2026. We view this as both a privilege and a solemn responsibility to contribute more substantively to the vision and progress of our Organization. As we prepare for this important role, we are committed to working closely with all Member States and the Secretariat to ensure continuity, strengthen institutional effectiveness, and further operationalize our shared goals under the D-8 Decennial Roadmap. We believe this transition offers an opportunity to deepen collective ownership and deliver meaningful outcomes across our priority sectors.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the D-8 vision. We are ready to work hand in hand with our partners to realize the full potential of this platform and to forge a future that reflects the aspirations of our peoples; a future rooted in solidarity, shared prosperity, and sustainable development.

**I thank you.**

**GELİŞEN SEKİZ ÜLKE TEŞKİLATI (D-8)****49. KOMİSYON TOPLANTISI****SAYIN UEGM'NİN HİTABI**

(26-27 Mayıs 2025, İstanbul)

**Distinguished Chairperson,**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Esteemed Colleagues,**

I am pleased to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Commission Meeting, representing the Republic of Türkiye.

Let me thank my Egyptian colleague for hosting this meeting in Istanbul, notably at the new premises of the Secretariat.

I would also like to express our gratitude to Egypt for its active chairmanship during its term.

I extend our thanks to Mr. Secretary General and his team for their efforts in making D-8 a more efficient, result-oriented and attractive organization.

As the host country, we think that the Secretariat must always be provided with sufficient technical, physical and financial instruments, as well as human resources.

On this occasion, I would like to thank Director-I Ahmar Ismail, who will be concluding his post in June, for his efforts, and congratulate and introduce Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, who was appointed as the new Director-I by Türkiye, and wish him success.

Dear Colleagues,

Recently, international economic governance and global trade are facing serious challenges, and we observe that regionalization is becoming the theme of the day.

We believe that importance of D-8, as one of the organizations which we pioneered in establishing and whose Secretariat we host in İstanbul, will gradually increase.

Azerbaijan's accession to the Organization is a testimony to this observation. Accession of our brotherly nation of Azerbaijan constitutes a crucial milestone, proving the relevance of D-8.

We consider that our Organization will become even much stronger with new members and be placed in a more strategic position among international and regional economic organizations.

The momentum gained by D-8 in recent times is well reflected on our busy meeting agenda.

We will have the chance to deliberate on crucial issues including among others legal aspects of Azerbaijan's accession, financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat and discussion on new initiatives.

We should make good use of this momentum to overcome organizational, administrative and policy wise difficulties in advancing our Organization forward.

Having a sound and capable Secretariat and a focused sectoral cooperation might produce the formula in need.

Distinguished Commissioners,

D-8, with a population of 1.3 billion and an economic size of approximately 5 trillion dollars, still has an untapped potential.

In the spirit of the D-8's mission, we should place strong emphasis on sectoral cooperation, as it holds the key to our collective economic advancement.

As always, Türkiye is committed to working closely with our fellow members to explore new opportunities for growth, investment, and technological advancement within specific sectors such as agriculture, industry, technology, and energy.

Turning our attention to the D-8's economic agenda, we must remain dedicated to advancing economic cooperation among Member States.

The economic agenda should focus on reducing trade barriers, enhancing investment opportunities, promoting innovation and efficiently applying the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

We are convinced that by focusing on our priorities with joint effort and strong collaboration, our Organization can become a convenient platform for its members to overcome the challenges we face and unlock the full potential of our nations.

I look forward to fruitful discussions and the formulation of actionable strategies during this and subsequent sessions, as we collectively strive to advance the prosperity and well-being of our esteemed people.

Thank you.

***538 kelime / 5 dakika***

### D-8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-26

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
<b>Statutory Meetings</b>			
50 <sup>th</sup> D-8 Commission Meeting & 22 <sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting	2025	Egypt	TBC
D-8 Commissioners' Retreat	October 2025	Azerbaijan	TBC
<b>Sectoral Cooperation</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup> Session of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council	Q3/Q4 2025	Egypt	TBC
D-8 Media Forum	September 2025	Azerbaijan	Confirmed
D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Climate	November 2025	Azerbaijan	Confirmed
D-8 Youth Forum	July 2025	Azerbaijan	Confirmed
8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA	16 June 2025	Nigeria	Confirmed in Abuja
8 <sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Agriculture 8 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	Q3 2025	Nigeria	TBC
7 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on D-8 Industrial Cooperation	2025	TBC (Türkiye has explored the possibility of hosting)	Türkiye proposed Indonesia and Pakistan to consider hosting. Wait until July 2025 for decision.
The Meeting of the SME Governmental Bodies and the Inauguration of the D-8 SME Center	17 June 2025	Nigeria	Confirmed in Abuja
5 <sup>th</sup> Senior Officials meeting on Tourism / 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Tourism	Q2 2025	Egypt	05-06 May 2025
First D-8 Tourism Investment Forum	2025	Iran/ <small>Sec to prepare the Concept Note</small>	Confirmed date to be announced

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
1 <sup>st</sup> D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Energy	2025	Iran	TBC
1 <sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Health	2025	Egypt	TBC
2 <sup>nd</sup> D-8 Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings on Youth	21-22 July 2025	Nigeria	Confirmed
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Consular Authorities of D-8 Member States on the Implementation of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures	TBA	Bangladesh	TBC
14 <sup>th</sup> D-8 Meeting of Directors-General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation	TBA	TBC	TBA
DGCA Task Force on Training & Capacity Building (Chair: Türkiye, Deputy Chair: Nigeria)	TBA	TBC	TBA
DGCA Task Force on Commercial Issues (Chair: Indonesia, Deputy Chair: Türkiye) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
DGCA Task Force on 'Safety & Security' (Chair: Malaysia, Deputy Chair: Pakistan) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
DGCA Task Force on Air Navigation & Air Traffic Management (Chair: Iran, Deputy Chair: Indonesia) (Virtual)	TBA	TBC	TBA
Standing Committee on ICT	Q3 2025	Iran	Meeting Confirmed. date to be announced
The D-8 Energy <sup>i</sup> Forum	TBA	Nigeria	TBC
The 1 <sup>st</sup> D-8 E-Government Network Meeting <sup>ii</sup>	Q3/Q42025	Türkiye	Confirmed, date TBC
D-8 Badminton Tournament (Amateur) <sup>iii</sup>	2025/2026	Indonesia	Proposed by the Secretariat

Title of Meeting	Date	Host	Status
D-8 Badminton Tournament (Professional)	June 2025	Nigeria	Proposed by the host
<b>Technical Meetings/Workshops/Other Activities in Partnership with International Organizations</b>			
Capacity Building Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights for Small and Medium Enterprises in the D-8 Member States, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Cancelled <sup>1</sup>	D-8 Secretariat	Cancelled
Workshop on Investment Promotion in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)	Cancelled <sup>2</sup>	D-8 Secretariat	Cancelled
<b>Meetings of the D-8 Sub-Organizations</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup> Board of Trustee Meeting of the D-8 International University	TBA	D-8 International University / Iran	TBA
9 <sup>th</sup> High Council Meeting of D-8 TTEN (HCM)	TBA	D-8 TTEN/ Iran	TBA
Second Meeting of the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture (D-8 RCAFS)	Q2 2025	D-8 RCAFS/ Pakistan	Confirmed
D-8 Bioinformatics Bootcamp 2025	16-27 June 2025	Faisalabad/Pakistan	Confirmed
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)	Q3	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	Confirmed
General Assembly of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI)	TBA	D-8 CCI/ Egypt	TBC
Third Meeting of the D-8 Health and Social protection Program (D-8 HSP)	TBA	D-8 HSP / Nigeria	TBC
<b>Private Sector-led Cooperation</b>			
Second Meeting of the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (D-8 CEFC)	TBA	Secretariat and Al-Hidayah Group/ Malaysia	TBC

<sup>1</sup> Quorum could not be met.

<sup>2</sup> The approval from the host country could not be obtained by the WAIPA.

<b>Title of Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Status</b>
Technical meeting on the D-8 Payment Card	TBA	Secretariat KOMEPS/ Malaysia	TBC

**TBA: To be Announced**

**TBC: To be Confirmed**

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